



sccadvasa

South Carolina Coalition Against  
Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



To our partners, colleagues, and friends,

As SCCADVASA enters its 45th year, we are relentlessly reminded of how critical our work remains. Every day seems to bring new and horrific stories about domestic and sexual violence and yet accountability for those who commit them, and a full investment in building effective prevention strategies remain a distant vision.

It is a vision to which we remain committed. Although the political and cultural landscape which we navigate is always complex, changing and uncertain, we persist. We learn lessons from our past, draw on the wisdom of victims/survivors and advocates, and invest in the creation of programs and initiatives that can help transform communities into safer places for everyone.

The publication of an annual report gives us a chance to reflect on our efforts during the past year, and the opportunity to show our commitment in action. The daily work of our member organizations provides a thread of hope for people who have experienced severe levels of trauma, often in their homes and from people they love. This thread of hope is the heart of our work; its strength provides the foundation from which we can continue to move forward.

Alice Walker said, "Human compassion is equal to human cruelty, and it is up to each of us to tip the balance." We hope you see her words as an invitation to join us, for together we can bring about the change we so desperately need in building a safer society both for ourselves and our children.

Sincerely,

Sara Barber  
*Executive Director*

Scott Ballew  
*Board Chair*

# ABOUT SCCADVASA

## OUR MISSION:

The South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA) serves as the collective voice promoting the prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault in South Carolina.

## OUR VISION:

A South Carolina free from domestic violence and sexual assault.

## WHO WE ARE:

Since 1981, SCCADVASA has been a leader in representing the critical needs of survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and is a pivotal voice in violence prevention. We advance our work through advocacy, education, and collaboration.

## OUR CORE VALUES:

Our vision of a violence-free South Carolina demands united action. We believe in the value of collaboration to create change, passionate advocacy for survivors, education for prevention and the credibility that emerges from persistence. We ground our work in humility as we learn and grow, leveraging our collective leadership to influence the greater good.

“We are, each one of us, intricately  
Woven into the other’s existence.”

- Audre Lorde



# 2025 MEMBER & AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

## Member Organizations:

Beyond Abuse (SA)  
CASA/Family Systems (DV/SA)  
Cumbee Center (DV/SA)  
Family Justice Center of Georgetown and Horry Counties (DV)  
First Light (SA)  
Hopeful Horizons (DV/SA)  
Julie Valentine Center (SA)  
Meg's House (DV)  
My Sister's House, Inc. (DV)  
Palmetto CASA (SA)  
Pathways to Healing (SA)  
Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Assault (DV/SA)  
Pickens County Advocacy Center (SA)  
Project R.E.S.T. (DV/SA)  
Rape Crisis Center of Horry & Georgetown Counties (SA)  
Safe Harbor, Inc. (DV)  
Safe Passage, Inc. (DV/SA)  
Sistercare, Inc. (DV)  
The Family Resource Center (SA)  
The SAFE Home (DV)  
Tri-County S.P.E.A.K.S. (SA)  
YWCA of the Upper Lowlands, Inc. (DV)

*\*DV: Domestic Violence, SA: Sexual Abuse*

## Affiliate Organizations:

A Call to Action (Oconee)  
Aiken County Victim Services  
Bamberg County Sheriff's Office  
Catapult Outreach Inc.  
Channel Missions' The Hiding Place  
Child Abuse Prevention Association (CAPA)  
Children's Recovery Center  
Dickerson Children's Advocacy Center  
Domestic Abuse Center  
I AM VOICES, INC.  
Lighthouse For Life  
Office of the Solicitor Fourth Judicial Circuit  
Origin SC  
South Carolina Legal Services  
Spartanburg Police Department  
The Hive Community Circle  
The Naomi Project  
The Parenting Place  
University of South Carolina's Office of Sexual and Interpersonal Violence Intervention and Prevention



"With every interaction I have with member organizations, I see their passion for this work. Finding resources and trainings to help them accomplish their goals is my contribution to close the gap."

– Courtney Matthews, SCCADVASA Membership Program Coordinator

# ADVOCACY FOR VICTIMS & SURVIVORS

SCCADVASA continued to advocate for state and federal legislative policies to support the needs of our member organizations in providing services to survivors.

## FEDERAL

### Crime Victim Fund Stabilization Act

As victim service agencies continued to experience federal funding cuts, SCCADVASA advocated for funding to offset the impact of these reductions which threaten the stability of these community-based programs that provide life-saving services to victims of domestic and sexual violence.

South Carolina Members of Congress Nancy Mace, William Timmons, Russell Fry and Joe Wilson co-sponsored the Crime Victim Fund Stabilization Act ([H.R. 909](#)), a bi-partisan bill aiming to stabilize the Crime Victims Fund (CVF) from which essential grants supporting victim services are funded by redirecting funds collected through the False Claims Act into the CVF through FY29. This bill was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in January 2026, and we now look to the Senate to act.



SCCADVASA Executive Director Sara Barber, Sistercare Executive Director Leah Wicevic, and Rape Crisis Center of Horry & Georgetown Counties Executive Director Lindy Studds traveled to DC during the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV)'s annual advocacy days to meet with legislators and their staff including Representatives William Timmons and Ralph Norman. SCCADVASA also developed [legislative fact sheets](#) by district advocating for support of the critical funding needed for domestic violence and sexual assault programs across South Carolina.

# ADVOCACY FOR VICTIMS & SURVIVORS

## STATE

In 2025, SCCADVASA's state legislation priority areas of interest included:

### Non-consensual Intimate Image Sharing

H. 3058 (Wooten et.al) which provides penalties for the non-consensual distribution of intimate images passed both bodies and was signed into law by Governor McMaster in May 2025. South Carolina was the last state in the nation to enact this kind of specific legislation.



### Dating Violence and Civil Restraining Orders

S. 143 (Devine et.al) remained on the contested calendar even with the work to address concerns from the gun lobby to create possible amendments that would not trigger the firearm prohibitor for Orders of Protection issued in dating relationships. This bill was passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee in 2025 and currently remains on the calendar to be heard by the full Senate.

### Lease Termination Relief for Victims of Domestic Violence

H. 3569 (M.M. Smith et. al) which created a status of protected tenant to afford victims of domestic violence the ability to terminate a lease early in specified circumstances was unfortunately unable to pass before Sine Die. It remains on the Senate calendar.

### Budget Appropriations

SCCADVASA strongly supported the Attorney General's request for \$15 million in the state budget to support crime victim services funding that has been hit by the decrease in federal grants due to the low balance in the Victims' Crime Fund. Last year alone, a 41% decrease in the federal appropriation resulted in cuts of up to 35% in VOCA grants to our member organizations: the impact slightly ameliorated by previous supplemental funding from the Legislature. We were thrilled that the legislature appropriated \$19.45 million for this request.

### Survivor Access to Critical Health Care in the Wake of an Assault

In Fall 2025, SCCADVASA opposed SC Senate Bill 323, legislation that would have denied women and girls access to emergency contraception following a violent sexual assault by a male perpetrator and subjected victims and victim advocates to extreme civil and criminal penalties for discussing emergency contraception and other critical health and safety needs.

*"it's not an act of love if you make her..."*

*From Labour, by Paris Paloma*

# SCCADVASA TRAINING & STATISTICS

SCCADVASA continued critical efforts to educate and assist members and individuals across SC.

**1440** Technical Assistance request responses on best practices to member organizations, system partners, and community members

**142** Trainings facilitated

- 27 workshops
- 13 conferences
- 28 webinars
- 1 panel discussion
- 48 roundtable meetings
- 25 eLearning sessions

**Language Access for Survivors:** SCCADVASA provides remote interpretation services to our Member and Affiliate organizations so they can offer 24/7 support to survivors in the language they speak.

In 2025, we provided:

- 1,122 on-demand, tele-interpretation sessions
- 26 scheduled interpretation sessions
- 18 video interpretation sessions
- 38 document translations
- 50 in person interpreting sessions

**12,073** Total hours of completed training

**4,899** People trained

Training % by Occupation:

- Community-Based Victim Advocates: 42%
- Criminal Justice Systems (law enforcement, systems advocates, prosecutors): 12%
- Attorneys/Law Students/Legal Staff: 14%
- Health Professionals (Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SANE), substance use treatment providers, mental health professionals): 9%
- Government Agency Staff (Including child welfare and educators): 5%
- Non-Governmental Social Service Agency Staff: 3%
- Faith-based Organization Staff: 2%
- Other: 14%

## VICTIM SERVICE PROVIDER (VSP) BASIC TRAINING REDESIGN



In 2025, the training team began transitioning SCCADVASA's Basic Victim Service Providers (VSP) training to a platform allowing for a highly interactive learning experience and increased accessibility. Instead of listening to an audio recording and downloading documents, learners will complete a variety of interactive exercises embedded in the training platform, such as tab interactions, drag and drop games, and custom animation videos. The updated format will be launched in 2026.

“Survivors of domestic violence have complex needs such as mental and physical health problems due to the abuse. For advocates to best serve them, they must be trained on a myriad of issues so they can make appropriate referrals and care for their clients in a holistic way.”

- Ana Castellanos, SCCADVASA Program Coordinator for Training & Technology

# NOTABLE EVENTS & CAMPAIGNS

## Preventing Survivor Homicide - Lethality Assessment Program (LAP)

In 2025, SCCADVASA began working to build partnerships with law enforcement agencies across South Carolina to implement the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP), an evidence-based screening tool to help officers responding to domestic violence assess a victim's risk of homicide or near fatality and connect them with support at the scene.

Developed by the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV), the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) is an innovative strategy to prevent intimate partner violence homicides and serious injuries by assisting first responders in identifying domestic violence victims who are at the highest risk of being seriously injured or killed by their intimate partner and immediately connect them with their local domestic violence service program. [Read the press release.](#)



## Advocates urge SC law enforcement to use tool to prevent domestic violence deaths



Multiple news outlets covered SCCADVASA's efforts to expand use of the LAP and its critical role in preventing domestic violence homicide.

*"Every minute counts for victims experiencing domestic violence. The LAP's ability to help first responders assess a victim's level of danger and connect them with critical resources at the scene saves lives. We look forward to partnering with additional law enforcement agencies across South Carolina to implement this powerful tool."*

*– Sara Barber, SCCADVASA Executive Director*

## Lighting the Way for Survivors - Porch Lights

In October, lights shone from porches across South Carolina to help raise awareness of the impact of domestic violence in our communities and show survivors that they are not alone as SCCADVASA launched our inaugural Porch Lights event.



Participants shared Porch Lights photos on social media in support of survivors.

*"There was a time when I was translated by violence, there were times I prayed to be turned into a flower or a tree, something he wouldn't recognize as me."*

*From Translation by Kim Moore*



## South Carolina ETV Partnership

In October, SCCADVASA shared the news of a yearlong partnership with South Carolina ETV. The initiative, called South Carolina Speaks: Focus on Domestic Violence, features programming and coverage on SCETV’s television, radio, digital and social platforms, explores the impact of domestic violence on victims, families, and communities across the state, and highlights resources available to help survivors. [Read the announcement.](#)



Executive Director Sara Barber speaks with “This Week in South Carolina” host Gavin Jackson about the prevalence of domestic violence.

“SCCADVASA is grateful for this tremendous opportunity to partner with SCETV to tell the story of the devastating impact of abuse throughout South Carolina and share how we can all support survivors and help end domestic violence in our communities.”

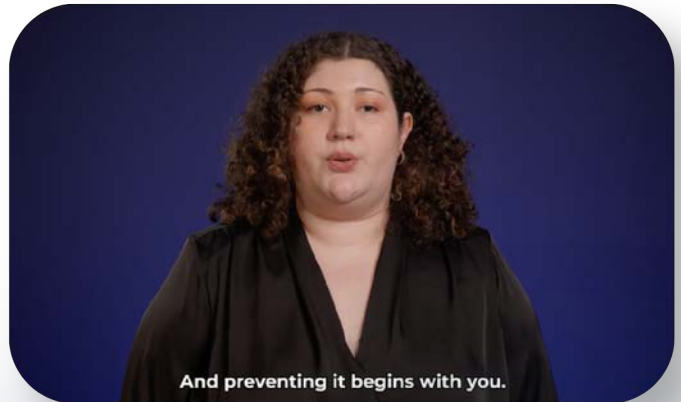
- Sara Barber, SCCADVASA Executive Director

## Public Service Announcement (PSA) Videos

Through the generosity of our community partner, the Junior League Columbia (JLC), our team filmed a series of Public Service Announcement (PSA) videos raising awareness of the help that is available statewide for survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

The SCCADVASA team visited Columbia’s As Told By Agency to record these videos.

We are grateful for JLC’s support in producing these segments which also feature SCCADVASA member organization Sistercare. [View a PSA.](#)



“all is spoiled by the fact that I am a girl, a female always in danger of assault and battery...I want to be able to sleep in an open field, to travel west, to walk freely at night.”

- Sylvia Plath

# SURVIVOR HOUSING & SUPPORT

## Housing Summit

Domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness with survivors often facing barriers to securing a safe and affordable home for themselves and their families.

In September, our member organizations and community partners joined us for a Housing Summit to discuss how to work through the challenges that domestic violence survivors face when searching for a home. The event featured victim advocates and housing experts sharing tools, strategies, and ideas to build partnerships to address homelessness among domestic violence survivors.



“From the comfort of our own homes, it is hard to understand the complexities of IPV, poverty, and homelessness. Through collaboration, we can create possibilities and solutions for the housing crisis and what appear to be impossible situations.”

- Leah McCleskey, SCCADVASA Housing & Membership Coordinator

## ReShare

SCCADVASA helped survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault access immediate, safe temporary housing through hotel placements booked through Safe Stays by ReShare.

Partnering with 47 hotels across the state, we provided 90 hotel stays for survivors and their families including 445 safe nights of emergency housing, offering survivors stability to rest, recover, and plan next steps.

- 111 adults supported through emergency placements
- 101 children able to remain safely with their caregiver
- 23 infants and young children protected during a critical time
- 8 companion animals kept with their families, reducing barriers to leaving abuse
- 3 service animals accommodated so survivors could maintain essential support

## AllState Foundation Grants

Thanks to the Allstate Foundation Economic Empowerment Grants, SCCADVASA was able to provide more than \$141,000 in direct cash assistance to domestic violence (DV) survivors ages 9 to 72 across the 13 DV member organizations for needs including housing, daily living, and transportation assistance.

“The Allstate Foundation Grant is such an important and necessary project. It allows SCCADVASA the opportunity to give funds to domestic violence survivors that will allow them to secure housing, fulfill daily living needs, and begin a path to financial independence.”

- Shannon Nix, SCCADVASA Associate Director

# PREVENTION EVENTS

SCCADVASA's prevention team continued to work with community organizations, educators, and faith leaders across the state to offer education and resources to prevent and respond to sexual violence, including place-based and community-building approaches.

## Photovoice

In July, prevention educators and community builders from across the state gathered in Columbia for a two-day training to learn about Photovoice, a powerful community-based participatory method that uses visual storytelling to create meaningful social change. Erica Belli and Stephanie Lloyd joined us from Photovoice Worldwide to share how empowering individuals to document their experiences and perspectives through images can foster authentic community engagement and inform our sexual violence prevention work.



“Photovoice offers a creative way for people to show their experiences through photography, allowing others to see and hear stories that go beyond words to get to the heart of the human experience.”

- Kelly Premo, SCCADVASA Director of Prevention & Specialized Advocacy

## Sacred Space Art Installation

SCCADVASA collaborated with Aiken artist Wendelin Russell and the Interfaith Partners of South Carolina to launch an outdoor traveling art installation offering survivors of violence, particularly domestic and sexual violence, a safe place to reflect on their stories and healing.

The installation was unveiled in April at the Aiken Unitarian Universalist Church. It will continue to travel throughout the state where survivors, their supporters, and the community are encouraged to visit the exhibit.

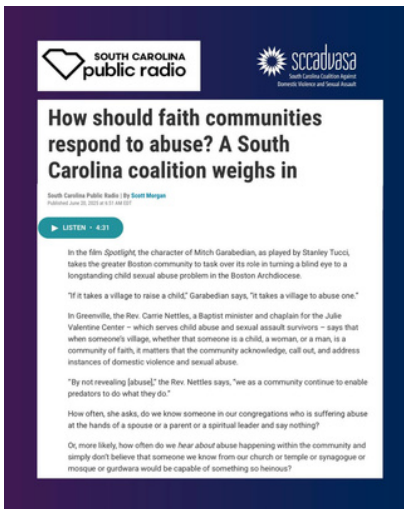


### SCKnowMore Webinar Series

A two-part SCKnowMore webinar series was offered focusing on prevention and intervention strategies to foster healthy interactions and relationships with victims and survivors in faith communities using a trauma-conscious and survivor-informed approach.



### SC Public Radio Coverage



SC Public Radio's Scott Morgan spoke with Rev. Jay Kieve, Rev. Geneece Goertzen, and Rev. Carrie Nettles with the Julie Valentine Center about the series and the important role of faith leaders in preventing and responding to domestic and sexual violence in their communities. [Listen to the segment.](#)

"I was much too far out all my life/And not waving but drowning"

- Stevie Smith

An estimated 10% of U.S. adults over the age of 60 have experienced some form of elder abuse including emotional, physical, or sexual abuse and/or neglect.

In 2025, SCCADVASA was awarded a grant from Futures Without Violence to do the foundational work necessary to develop community practices rooted in restorative practices that will be responsive to the needs of older survivors of IPV and their caretakers.

SCCADVASA Director of Training Tricia Phaup also traveled to DC to participate as a panelist at the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL) roundtable to share how SCCADVASA works with victim service organizations to enhance services for older adults who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking (photo below).

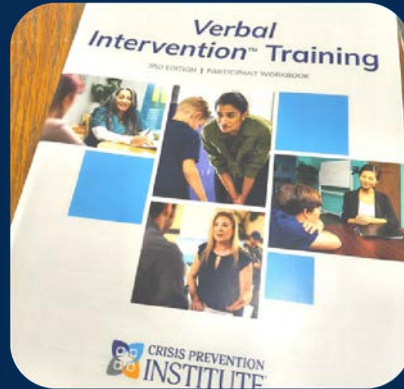


"Intimate partner violence (IPV) among adults aged 60 and older is a serious but often overlooked issue. The NCALL Strengthening Services for Elder Victims Roundtable emphasized the need for greater awareness, stronger data, and innovative prevention and intervention strategies tailored to the realities of later life."

- Tricia Phaup, SCCADVASA Director of Training

## CPI Verbal Intervention Training

In 2025, several SCCADVASA team members became certified instructors for the Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI)'s Verbal Intervention training. This VSP-approved curriculum is available to member organizations and provides tools and strategies for verbal de-escalation for professionals working with populations in crisis.



“Offering this evidence-based curriculum ensures consistent, trauma-informed care to the individuals and families they support. This builds collective capacity to reduce workplace violence and enhance safety for both staff and survivors.”

- Kelly Walling, SCCADVASA Program Coordinator of Prevention & Specialized Advocacy

## DSS Liaison Symposium

SCCADVASA member organization Department of Social Services (DSS) liaisons gathered in November for the 2025 symposium titled “Stronger Together: Planting Seeds for Multidisciplinary Collaboration.” Kris Bein, Director of Capacity Building and Technical Assistance at the National Network to End Domestic Violence, led the event which focused on multidisciplinary collaboration and strategies for creative partnerships to strengthen advocacy services.



“This work is emotionally taxing, and vicarious trauma is real. I am passionate about prioritizing staff wellness to build the resilience and balance necessary for high-impact service.”

- Charity Collier, SCCADVASA Program Director for Systems Advocacy & Office Administration

# LEGAL PROGRAM IMPACT

SCCADVASA's Legal Assistance Program connects victims and survivors with attorneys throughout the state to provide legal counsel and representation in a wide variety of civil legal issues including orders of protection, immigration and housing matters. These services are provided at no cost to the survivor.

**436** survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and harassment connected with attorneys for direct legal services, largely within in SCCADVASA's network of contract attorneys

**136** responses to requests for expert technical assistance from our member organizations and affiliates on all aspects of operations, subpoena defense and compliance with state and federal law



SCCADVASA attended and facilitated sessions at the Inaugural South Carolina Treatment Court Forum to explore strategies, innovative tools, and data-driven solutions to enhance participant outcomes and strengthen community partnerships.

“Expanding survivor access to justice requires collaboration. By uniting legal providers, victim advocates, and educators, we are strengthening Victim Services Legal Partnerships and increasing access to trauma-informed Legal Safety Planning and affordable civil legal services—ensuring survivors are heard, informed, empowered, and supported on their path to safety.”

- Patricia Ravenhorst, SCCADVASA General Counsel

“A vital part of SCCADVASA's legal program is to help connect domestic violence and sexual assault survivors to attorneys who can address their legal needs that arise because of victimization. It's amazing to watch our contract attorneys dedicate their time, attention and support to these victims during a stressful time.”

- Teresa Van Flake, SCCADVASA Attorney

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## Domestic Violence Focus

In June, SCCADVASA launched a statewide social media, digital advertising, and billboard campaign to raise awareness of the support and resources offered by member organizations for survivors of domestic violence. Billboards were strategically placed throughout the state, featuring the logo and website address of the member organization offering survivor support in that area.



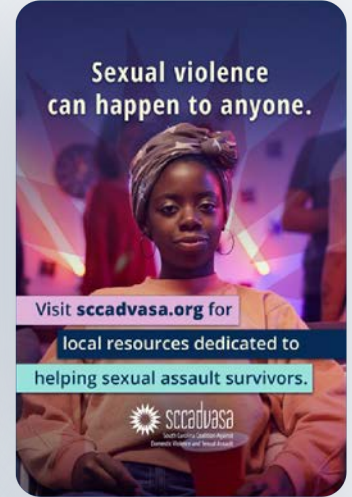
“At every table event, at least one survivor comes and shares their story and thanks us for the work we do. I’m happy to be there to hear their story and offer resources.”

- Peggy Chavis, SCCADVASA Program & Administrative Support Specialist

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## Sexual Assault Focus

In August, a statewide digital marketing campaign raising awareness of local support for sexual assault survivors was launched featuring social media advertising to include a geofencing strategy targeting college campuses and sports venues as well as direct social and newspaper ad placements with colleges.



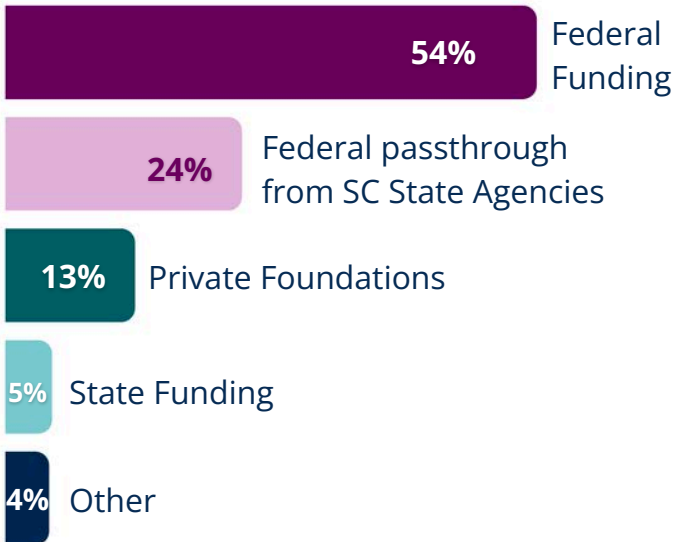
"let us not be scared of the work  
because it's hard  
let us move the mountain  
because the mountain must move"

- Danez Smith

# FINANCIALS

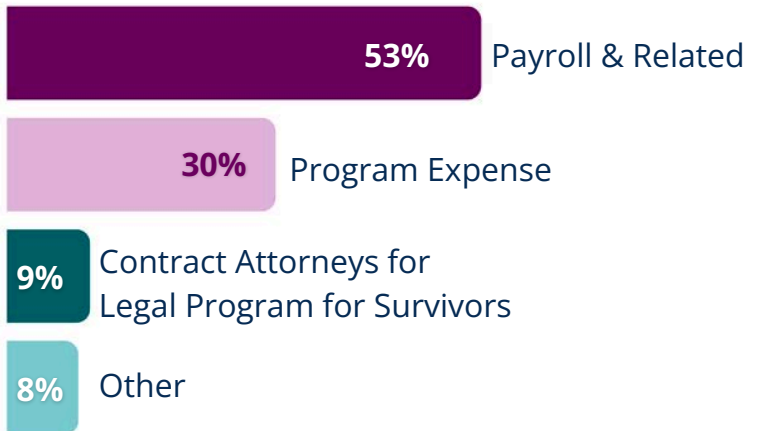
## REVENUES

FY 2025 Revenues: \$2,201,598



## EXPENSES

FY 2025 Expenses: \$2,192,683



*\*Unaudited financial figures at the time of this publication.*

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Lindy Studds, Vice Chair and SA Interest Group Chair, Rape Crisis Center  
Leah Wicevic, DV Interest Group Chair, Sistercare, Inc.  
Adrienne Woods, Member-At-Large, Safe Passage



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