

2022

ANNUAL REPORT



**THE NEW JERSEY COALITION
AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT**

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Dear Friends,

Greetings from the New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NJCASA)! Last year, we closed our Annual Report letter by saying we anticipated that 2022 would be “a year of new beginnings.” This year, we’re happy to share that this certainly was the case! From welcoming new staff and board members, to launching a new Community Council and statewide community event (Movement for a Safer NJ), to adopting novel practices—like our membership-wide Colleague of the Month Series, a website accessibility toolbar, and a community-care initiative—NJCASA has embraced so much positive change, and we’re proud of what we’ve accomplished!

Oftentimes, organizations talk about the changes we hope to make. We take trainings and brainstorm. We create plans and set goals. All of this is essential, of course, because we want to be thoughtful and intentional in our work, but we also need to bring these hopes and aspirations to fruition. We need to make change happen! No doubt, doing so can feel scary, but a lot less so when we consider the valuable impact these changes will have on those we serve. In this spirit, we encourage you to join us in being change agents in our communities—challenging harmful social norms, uprooting oppression, and creating safer, more inclusive spaces throughout New Jersey!

Below, you’ll learn more about NJCASA’s growth and impact in 2022! As for 2023, we’re already looking forward to what’s to come—a new staff experience survey for our membership programs across all 21 counties, the second year of Movement for a Safer NJ, an accessibility audit to ensure that our programs, events, and materials meet the diverse needs of those we serve, and much, much more. Keep up with NJCASA throughout the year by following us on social media and/or by subscribing to our email list, and never hesitate to reach out. We want to be held accountable and appreciate your input!

Warm Regards,

The Team at NJCASA



PROMOTING RACIAL EQUITY

Anti-racism/anti-oppression principles are the cornerstone of NJCASA's work. Communities of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, individuals with disabilities, and other historically marginalized groups are disproportionately impacted by sexual violence and often face the greatest barriers to accessing services. Our commitment to upending systems of oppression extends across our programs, policies, events, and more. However, we know we are constantly learning, as well as unlearning harmful norms and behaviors that are deeply ingrained. That is why we continue to prioritize our work with [Sunflower Strategists](#), consultants and facilitation experts committed to uprooting internal hierarchies and oppressive dynamics while nurturing leadership, racial and gender justice, and organizational transformation. Our workshops and trainings in 2022 continued to build core skills and cultivate conditions to enhance our practices. Plus, in 2022, NJCASA's Board of Trustees also began working with Sunflower Strategists, helping us align our values across all facets of our organization.

PROMOTING ACCESSIBILITY

Ensuring that all NJCASA services are accessible to diverse audiences is essential to building equity. Whether it is language transcreation and interpretation, accommodations that remove barriers for individuals with disabilities, or practices that welcome communities that often experience marginalization, NJCASA is committed to incorporating standards that foster greater inclusion and to helping our partners and allies do the same. In 2022, NJCASA adopted the [Recite Me](#) cloud-based technology toolbar on our website, making information digitally inclusive by allowing visitors to customize content so that they can consume it in ways that work best for them. We also lay the groundwork for a full internal accessibility audit, which is scheduled to launch in 2023. The purpose of the audit is twofold—improve and expand our accessibility features and practices and share recommendations to help our community partners and allies do the same.



SUPPORTING OUR MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS

As the statewide advocacy and capacity building organization representing all of New Jersey's 21 county-based sexual violence programs and the Rutgers University – New Brunswick Office of Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance, NJCASA is always looking for ways to increase support to our member programs. In 2022, we created a new Colleague of the Month initiative to spotlight staff and volunteers from across the membership who inspire others through their service. Nominations are accepted and a new colleague is honored every month. We also hosted a Confidential Sexual Violence Advocate (CSVA) Volunteer recognition ceremony, honoring the work of our CSVA volunteers throughout the state. Additionally, for our CSVA Coordinators and Managers, NJCASA developed and hosted a comprehensive train-the-trainer series. This multi-day, in-person CSVA Facilitator Training was created to ensure that each local program is implementing the CSVA 40-Hour Training as developed by NJCASA. The sessions were highly successful and appreciated by the 35 professionals who attended them.





Our service delivery statistics track programmatic success among all our 21 county-based membership programs, including resiliencies demonstrated in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. This data informs our collaboration with the membership on an ongoing basis and underscores the impact of our collective work. In 2022, we hired a new Data and Analytics Specialist to facilitate data collection efforts and track and analyze trends. Our programs serve thousands of individuals across a range of focuses, from prevention education to counseling sessions.

Over 22,000 survivors were served in 2022 alone, with programs responding to their needs in the following ways:

COUNSELING



8,787

HOTLINE CALLS



10,170

OUTREACH REQUESTS



1,091

SART ACTIVATIONS



942*

Note: Figures higher than indicated above, as only 17 of all 21 programs shared complete program data in 2022.

Counseling services in 2022 were 14% higher than they were before COVID-19 hit in 2019, demonstrating the increased level of support our membership programs continue to provide since the pandemic.



SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITIES

NJCASA continues to value our community allies and to partner with and support them whenever possible. In 2022, we launched a nine-member [Community Council](#) to expand our reach across New Jersey. Our council members represent a range of culturally specific groups—from the disability justice community, human trafficking survivors, LGBTQ+ individuals, and more. Together, we are collecting data to assess how COVID-19 has impacted services, as well as identifying new practices and making recommendations for improving access to care. This year, we will issue a council report and host a symposium to elevate the voices of our partners. [Click here to learn more about our council members.](#)



Additionally, we continued to engage with and support a cohort of nine culturally specific partners who received funding through the Victim Expansion Fund: Community Affairs and Resource Center, Harambe Social Services, Hispanic Family Center of Southern New Jersey, Jewish Family Services, Legal Services of New Jersey, Manavi, Mercy Center, Partners for Women and Justice, and Wafa House. These organizations provide comprehensive services to at-risk populations across the state, and in 2022 we partnered with consultants from the [Nonprofit Lifecycles Institute](#) to provide individualized capacity building support to each. The Nonprofit Lifecycles Institute recognizes that there are a variety of developmental stages throughout the lifecycle of a nonprofit, and each one comes with different needs, challenges, and opportunities. Their trained experts support nonprofits of every size and lifecycle stage, responding to their unique priorities as they pursue their missions.



In 2022, we also launched a brand-new statewide community event, Movement for a Safer NJ, a 1.8-mile walk honoring the CDC's estimated 1.8 million survivors of contact sexual violence in our state. The event was hosted on the boardwalk in Bradley Beach and featured yoga, music, and art. Our event brought together a group of over 200 participants and 27 teams from across New Jersey, enabling us to raise over \$35,000. Fourteen of these teams were community partners whom we invited to create teams and fundraise on behalf of their own organizations and in support of the important work they do serving survivors in their communities. 75% of what each of these teams raised went directly back to their agencies. We are already looking forward to 2023's Movement for a Safer NJ and to making this event even bigger and better!

Finally, we closed out the year with a free, two-day virtual conference entitled Creating Transformative Spaces. The event featured a keynote address by Ashante Taylorcox, Executive Director at [You Are More Than](#), and a total of four panels and four workshops, all led by subject area experts across a series of topics related to building anti-racist/anti-oppressive workplaces, services, and communities. Reduced rate continuing education units (CEUs) were provided by the [Rutgers School of Social Work Center for Research on Ending Violence](#) for anyone interested. With nearly 400 registrants and so much positive feedback, the conference was an overwhelming success, and we are already looking forward to planning our next one, which will be held in early 2024. In the meantime, we are excited to share that the recordings of our conference can now be viewed on our [YouTube channel](#)—with English closed captioning, ASL interpretation, and Spanish subtitles available for all videos.



SUPPORTING OUR TEAM

We know that our team IS NJCASA. That is why, in 2022, we continued to foster a climate of equity, transparency, and support—from adopting an interim co-leadership model to support a period of transition to developing opportunities for shared planning and decision-making so that each member of our staff feels valued and appreciated. We provided trainings, coaching sessions, staff days, a new grounding agreement for all meetings, and much more. We also were able to expand our team and fill four new positions: an Administrative Coordinator, HR Specialist, Data and Analytics Specialist, and a Program Manager. Learn more about our new team members and all our staff by visiting [our website!](#) In 2023, we look forward to adding a total of three other members to our staff, with each individual working both independently and collaboratively to support our membership and community partners as we build safer, more equitable communities across New Jersey!

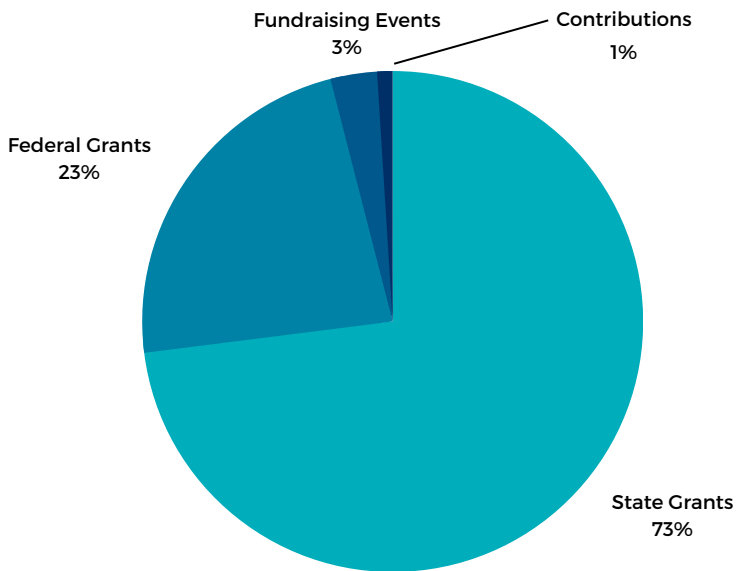
SUCCESSFUL BUDGET ADVOCACY AND OTHER FUNDING

In 2022, NJCASA continued to advocate for robust funding on behalf of sexual violence service providers across New Jersey, particularly in the aftermath of COVID-19. As a result, the new state budget included a total of \$12.6M for survivor services. This reappropriation of state monies signals that lawmakers in Trenton continue to prioritize funding for survivors and those who serve them. This funding means that NJCASA can continue to shore up service infrastructure across the state, building greater resiliency among our partners and strengthening our network of allies committed to building a safer, more equitable New Jersey.

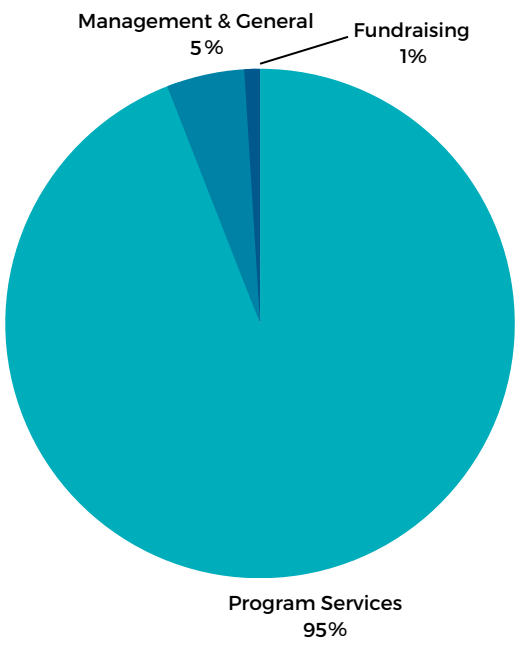
Additionally, NJCASA was awarded a total of \$440,000 in congressionally directed funding through Senator Cory Booker’s Office for the launch of a statewide two-year project assessing the impact of COVID-19 on service provision. Under this project, NJCASA is examining rates of service in all 21 counties, as well as gathering data on program innovations and resiliencies that have allowed so many of our partners to address the unique needs of survivors during and in the aftermath of the pandemic. The purpose of this initiative is to identify best practices and address how we can better prepare for future disruptions in services. A report of our findings is scheduled to be released in 2023.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

REVENUES AND SUPPORTS



EXPENSES



THANK YOU TO OUR 2022 SUPPORTERS!



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