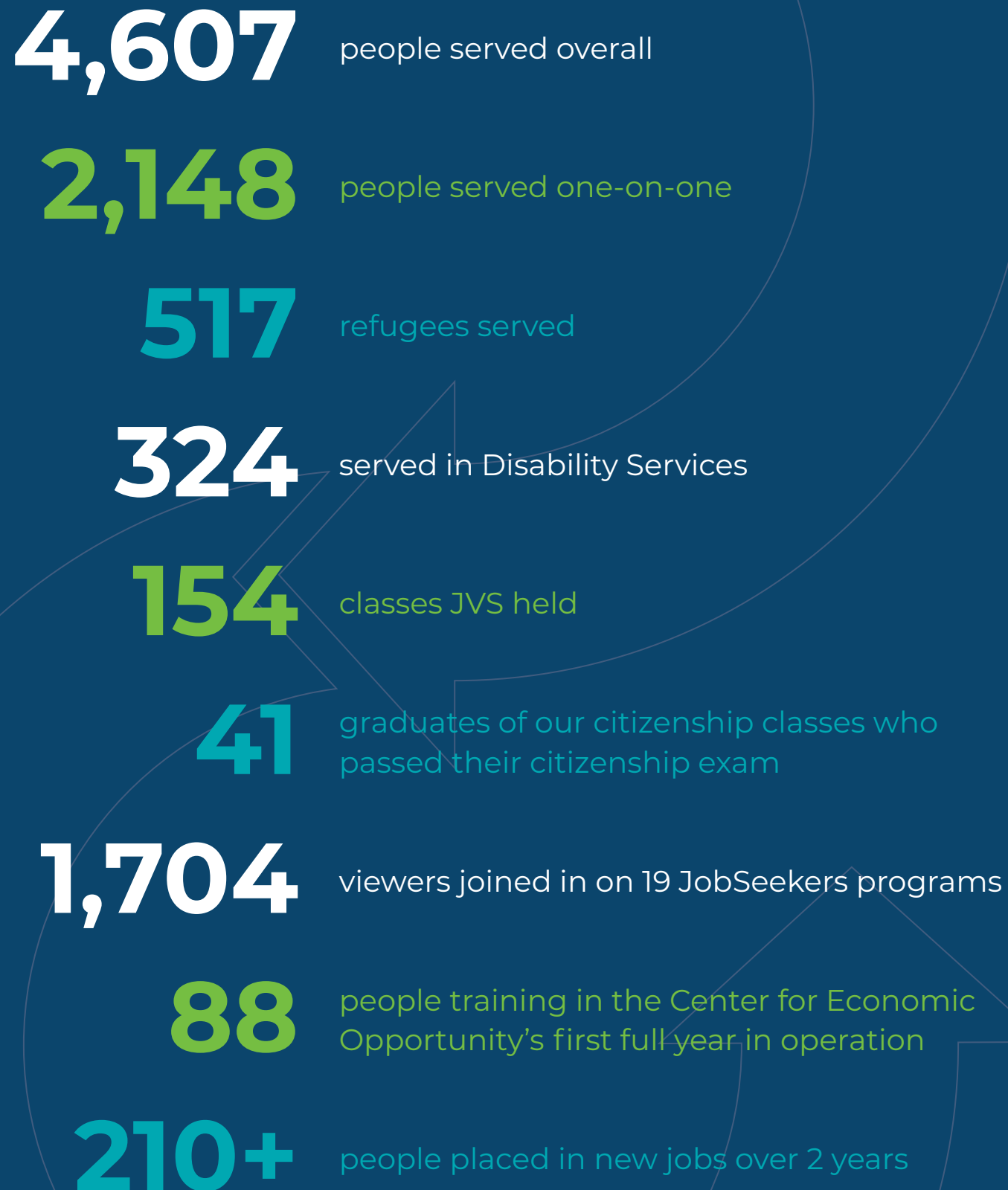




2023 **IMPACT** REPORT



JULY 1, 2022 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2023:



Repairing the World. One Person at a Time.

The year was 1939. LaGuardia Airport had just opened, *The Wizard of Oz* first appeared on the big screen, and the View-Master™ was one of the hottest selling toys. On a more somber note, with religious persecution becoming increasingly prevalent in Europe, Jewish people began migrating to America in search of a safer life and jobs.

1939 was also the year JVS opened its first office in Newark. The goal of the staff was to help Jewish immigrants gain a foothold in their new country through employment. JVS's work quickly expanded to help people with disabilities find employment. In the 80+ years since then, JVS has continued to identify ways to help people overcome barriers to employment.

Today, guided by the spirit of *tikkun olam*, JVS has carved a path forward where we can continue to repair the world in new and exciting ways, keeping our services relevant to the people who need us most today.

- The Center for Economic Opportunity, founded in 2021, is our new workforce development department. We now offer training that may lead to certification for Pharmacy Technicians, Home Health Aides, and Apartment Maintenance Technicians.
- We are expanding the Career Services department to meet the needs of all individuals who enroll in JVS programs. Grants from the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ are making this expansion possible.

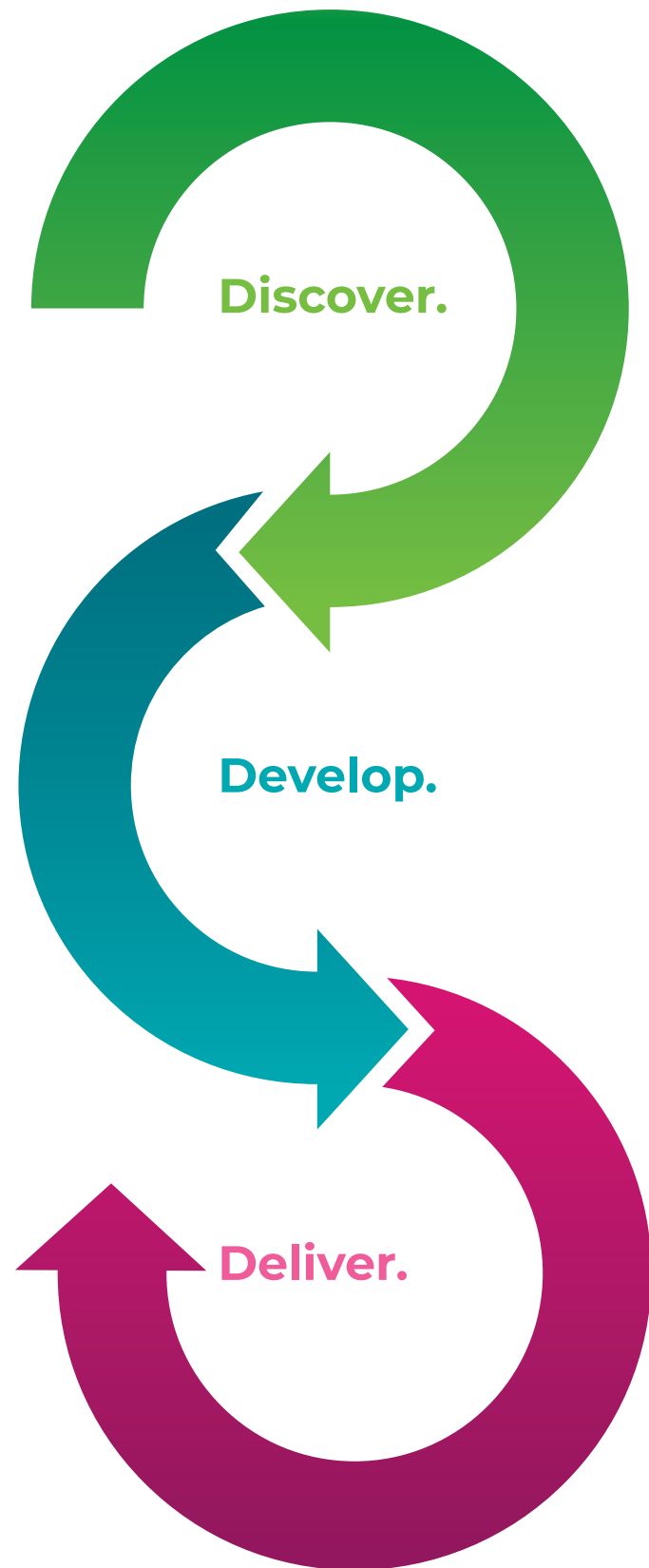
With the work JVS is already doing and these additions, JVS will have an even greater impact. Equally as important, they position JVS for a sustainable future. We invite you to read through the 2022-2023 Impact Report to gain a better understanding of the important work we do and to “meet” some of the people whose lives have been changed thanks to JVS.

Best regards,

David Picon
President, JVS Board of Trustees

Michael Andreas
Chief Executive Officer

Continuum of Career Readiness



We meet individually with people to help them **discover** and identify employment goals. We also meet with our employer partners to discover their employment needs.

We help people **develop** the skills they need to meet their goals and our employer partners' needs. If one of our employer partners needs help developing their existing workforce, we also provide training in a wide variety of areas for incumbent workers.

We help people **deliver** on their employment goals through guidance, resume writing, exam prep, networking, and job placement. With a well-trained employee who is prepared to work on day one, our employer partners deliver on their corporate goals.

How we do it.

JVS staff provide specialized services to more than **4,000** people each year. People benefit from these services simultaneously or sequentially.

CAREER SERVICES

We offer counseling, resume assistance, job placement and follow up; virtual JobSeekers programs that focus on different aspects of the job search; and an interest-free student loan program and grant program.



CENTER FOR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Our workforce development department works with employers to identify in-demand jobs, then creates customized training to meet their needs. Last year, JVS trained 88 people through its pharmacy technician and home health aide training programs.

CORPORATE TRAINING

JVS helps companies upskill their staff through training in many areas – OSHA compliance, technology skills, human resources, quality control, and more.



DISABILITY SERVICES

Our work with people with disabilities includes all facets of career discovery, career readiness including life skills, job placement, and long-term follow along. The department's goal is, whenever possible, to help people with disabilities transition into community employment.

EDUCATION AND LITERACY DEPARTMENT

JVS offers English as a Second Language classes, Adult Basic Education to prepare people for the GED exam, and Citizenship classes to ready Legal Permanent Residents for the citizenship exam and interview.



REFUGEE SERVICES

We help people new to America acclimate by connecting them to resources and benefits.

Making an Impact.

One Person at a Time.

“An individualized, holistic approach”



“Employment is critical to survival, yet many people can’t get a job because of life circumstances,” says **Hetal Narciso**, Chief Operating Officer. “They face extreme barriers to employment. At JVS, we take an individualized, holistic approach to ensure people get the support they need to find a job, start on a career path, and become independent. When someone says, ‘Yes! I got the job!’ **I see their self-confidence and their self-esteem grow exponentially.** I’ve been at JVS for twelve years, and that’s what keeps me going.”



“I’m making something of myself and it feels good.”

Shortly after his son’s birth, **TJ** was laid off from a seasonal job. “It was a stressful time for me,” recalls TJ. “I was applying for jobs everywhere.” He saw an ad for the Certified Apartment Maintenance Technician free training offered at JVS. “At first I was skeptical. In today’s society, you don’t get things for free. But I went through with it, and **it changed my life.** It got me to where I am today.”

“Before the program, I had never even picked up a screwdriver. I didn’t know how to load a drill bit.” Filled with doubt, TJ recalls a JVS staff member sat him down and “made me feel like I could do it.” He finished the class, passed the exam, and soon had a job offer with Greystar, an apartment property management service. “When I got into the interview, I told them I had the certification and it carried weight. They hired me right away.” After 12 months on the job, TJ received his national certification. Recently, when TJ looked for a new job, he was in hot demand. “Every interview I went on, they told me my resume and experience were impeccable,” he said. “I have JVS to thank for that.”

Major donors for the Center for Economic Opportunity include the Kosloski Foundation, Focusing Philanthropy, Santander Bank, and PNC Foundation.



“I get to work in a Café and Museum!”

Antony came to JVS’s Disability Services in the fall of 2022. Initially very shy, Antony showed many of the strengths that lead to success in community-based employment. “One of my vocational goals was to work front-end on a cash register and interact with the public,” recalls Antony.

Within a few months, Antony was selected to participate in a volunteer experience at the newly-opened Montclair Art Museum’s Cornerstone Café. He did so well, he is now working there in a part-time paid position. “I get to work in a café and museum!”

“I enjoy working at the Montclair Art Museum,” says Antony. “It gives me an opportunity to work on a cash register and make drinks for customers. **It feels good to make money and be productive in my community.**”

This program is funded by the New Jersey Division of Rehabilitation Services.

“We became US citizens today!”

Dear JVS,

We passed our citizenship test and became US citizens today! Thank you so much for letting us join the class on such a short notice and for helping us prepare for the test! The class was very helpful to prepare for the tests and to make us feel more confident on the interview! The USCIS officer was very friendly, and the interview went smoothly. **Thank you!**

Vladimir and Galina

This program is funded by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.



“I woke up to a bomb. The war had begun.”

“At 4 am on February 24, 2022, I woke up to a bomb,” recalls **Iuliia Ladygina**. “The war had begun. I couldn’t believe it was possible. Before the war, my life in Kiev was good. Stable. I had been working at Vodafone for 20 years and my son was enrolled in university.



“We slept for a few days in the apartment building basement. Then everybody began to move. No one knew where it was safe. After a week, we just got in the car and left. We had a few clothes, money, a warm blanket, and documents. We spent seven days in the west of Ukraine and then went to Kielce (Poland), where we rented an apartment. I continued to work online and started helping new refugees from Ukraine at the volunteer center in Kielce.

“I had to make a decision and that was to give my son a new life in America. He came to live with my sister, and I returned to Kiev to be with my father, who was dying. I stayed with my mother after he died and came to America on October 25, 2022.

“My son and I have a new life here, but it is painful, very stressful. Too many people have died and I am worried about my family and friends. My story, though, is not so sad when you compare it to other people from Ukraine, who can’t move or who have husbands in the war. **We ‘short-plan’ now because we don’t know what is going to happen.**

“I came to JVS for help with benefits, English classes, and my resume. We began to speak about a job. I knew I wanted to work here. I was so excited when I got a job offer as a refugee case manager. My knowledge and experience will be useful for clients.

“I am honored to become part of the JVS team and will do my best to contribute to the mission at my fullest.”

This program is funded in part by the New Jersey Office of Refugees and individual donors.

“I can’t believe I can see again.”

From September 20 to 22, 2022, JVS was part of **OneSight**, a three-day event hosted by Essilor Luxottica Foundation designed to help eradicate the global vision crisis. OneSight travels throughout the world and sets up temporary clinics at which people are screened for eye health concerns and vision correction, choose a pair of frames, and most receive glasses that day. Last year, OneSight set up their clinic in Newark and over the three-day event, 320 people were given the gift of better vision. Other organizations involved in the event included CVS Health, Aetna, and the Metropolitan Baptist Church.



Many JVS clients took advantage of this event, several of whom were accompanied by JVS staff who helped interpret for our clients who speak only Haitian Creole or communicate through American Sign Language. “One person with low vision received their first new pair of glasses in 9 years,” says **Robert Cadigan**, ASL Job Coach with JVS, who escorted several people through the screening. “The old glasses were taped and glued together. **Participating in this event was a reminder of how the services JVS provides positively impact the individuals we support in dramatic ways.**”

The people who received free eyeglasses were just as impressed. As one client said on her way out the door, “I can’t believe I can see again.”

All in the Family

After graduating from Montclair State University in 2019 with a degree in Sociology and Psychology, **Anya** was having a hard time finding a job within her chosen field. She enrolled in JVS’s first Certified Pharmacy Technician Program, graduating as one of the top students in the class in July 2022. She soon landed a job as a Pharmacy Technician at a pharmacy in West Orange. “My experience at JVS was great. I enjoyed the course,” says Anya.

Within a year, she had been promoted to Inventory Specialist. Now she’s interested in applying to their apprenticeship program to continue her growth within the company.

Meanwhile, her sister **Cassidy**, also a recent college grad, was struggling to find a consistent job in her chosen field. Anya suggested she try the JVS program, too. Fast forward a few months ... Cassidy graduated from the program in early May and less than a month later accepted a job at a pharmacy in Montclair.

“The program is a good starting point to learn about the general idea of being a pharmacy technician,” says Anya. “But the real work starts when you actually get to the business where you’ll be working. **It’s a whole new ball game.**”



We gathered together — in-person for the first time since the pandemic — at our **Taste & Toast Gala** honoring Ira Robbins of Valley Bank and Rob Francis of Planned Companies. Held at Green Brook Country Club on a beautiful evening in May, the event was attended by over 300 people and raised money to support JVS programming. Thank you to all who donated and joined in the fun!

Board of Trustees Members (pictured left): David Picon, President; Ira Robbins, CEO and Chairman of Valley Bank; Rob Francis, President and CEO of Planned Companies; and Ken Peskin, Past President

You Make it Happen. One Dollar at a Time.

We are grateful to the individuals, foundations, corporations, and government entities that supported JVS in the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Thanks to your support, both financial and in-kind, our work is possible.

\$250,000+

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NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
NJ Office of Refugees

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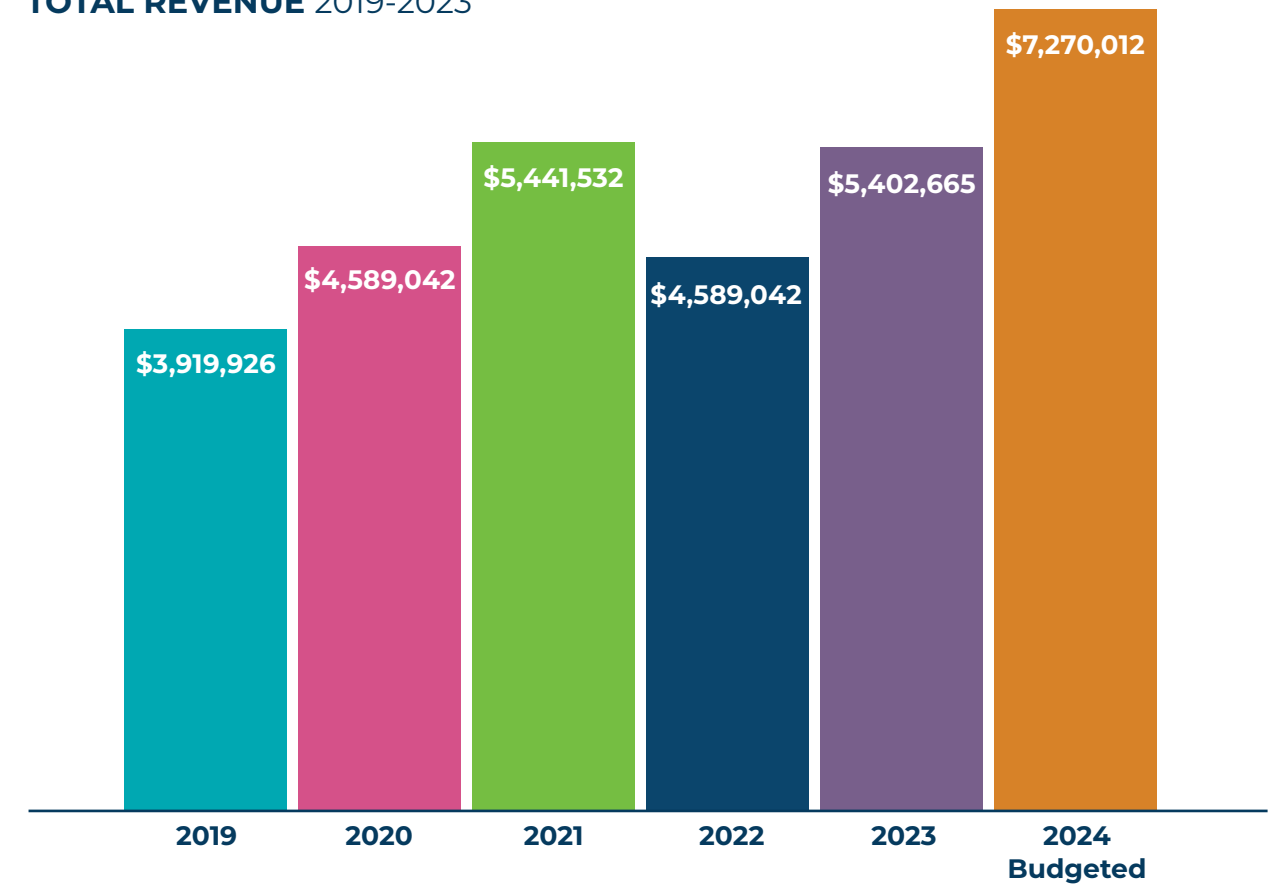
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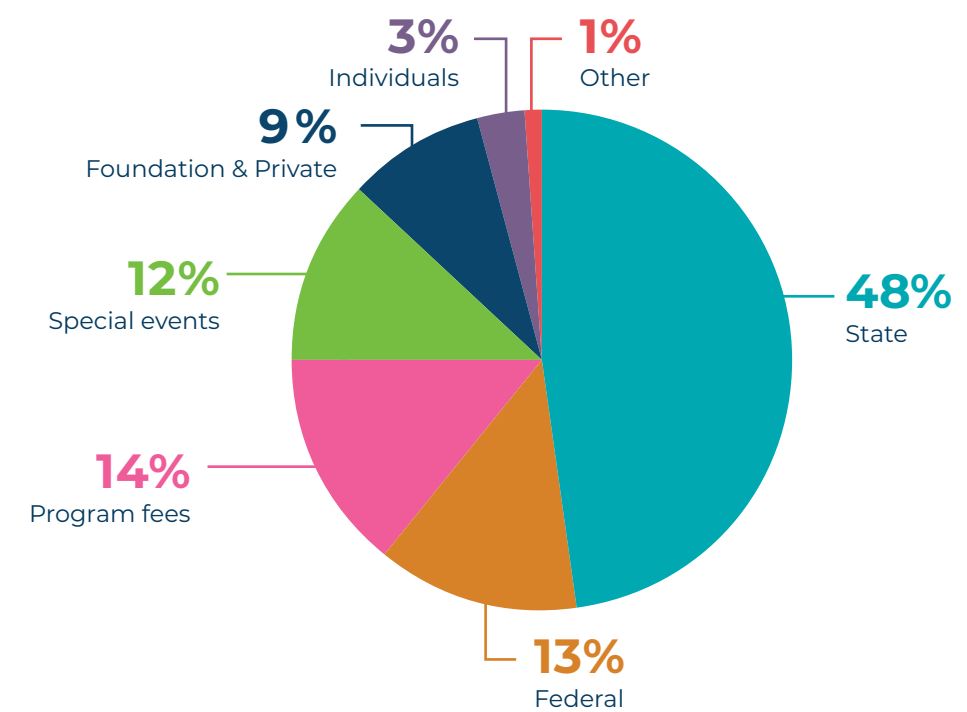
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