

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Project
Safeguard
Justice and Safety

FROM OUR LEADERSHIP



Dear Project Safeguard Supporters:

We are thrilled to share organizational highlights and information about the impact our services had on survivors of gender-based violence last year in the following pages. In many ways, 2022 brought a “return to normal” as the world adjusted to life after the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Schools and workplaces resumed in-person activities and Project Safeguard saw the demand for our services increase rapidly. While many things look different in the organization than they did before the pandemic, our dedication to serving survivors has remained and we have adapted to the changing needs of our clients and staff.

Despite the challenges of the past few years, 2022 brought growth and transition to the organization. We added three new staff positions and bid farewell to a longtime member of the staff who retired at the end of the year. We resumed services and activities that had been paused because of the pandemic and continued to innovate the ways we deliver services and collaborate with our community. We navigated the impact of funding cuts to ensure we could remain stable. This was a year that taught us new lessons about resilience and reminded us of the importance of making time for rest and self-care so that we can continue to show up for those who need us.

One survivor of domestic violence who received legal advocacy and attorney services from Project Safeguard in 2022 was represented by one of our staff attorneys in a family law case that went to trial. In this case, the client was trying to leave the state with her child because she had a job opportunity in another state that would have allowed a lower cost of living and a higher wage than in Colorado. The child's father/client's abuser had been mainly absent from the child's life for about 5 years preceding the filing of this case. He used delay tactics to drag out litigation and keep our client and her child in the in state, including the appointment of a Child and Family Investigator, which in this case was not necessary, and seeking continuances for the permanent orders hearing, which pushed it from early Jan to mid-April.

FROM OUR LEADERSHIP



In the end, our Staff Attorney was able to use relevant case law as to relocation and primary custody, and the Court adopted our proposed orders after a lengthy hearing and submission of written closing arguments, which are not often required. The implicit biases that plague our civil legal system mean that Black women, in particular, often have to work harder for a positive outcome than, for example, white women. In this case, having an attorney made a huge difference in this client's voice being heard and understood. The Court clearly heard our client's experiences with her abuser/child's father and made comments in its Order that called out some of his past behaviors and held him accountable for behavior change.

This story is just one of many examples of how our services help survivors exercise autonomy, choice, and freedom from the abuse that has prevented them from living full and happy lives. We are grateful to play a small part in ensuring that survivors know their rights and options and have access to systems designed to protect them. We hope that our support helps them move along a trajectory of healing. We appreciate our staff, volunteers, partners, and the community who help us serve survivors as they navigate the civil legal system. Thank you for being part of our work!

Sincerely,

Laura Johnson-Morris
Board President

Jennifer Eyl
Executive Director





OUR MISSION AND FOCUS

Project Safeguard's (PSG) mission is to **empower and partner** with people who have experienced **gender-based violence**, helping them navigate a course of **survivor-driven justice** through expert, **trauma-informed legal advocacy and representation**.

PSG's programs assist victims/survivors of gender-based violence (including but not limited to domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking) in Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, and Denver Counties with accessing protections through the civil court system to increase safety and self-sufficiency and build a violence-free life.



OUR PROGRAMS



PSG's non-attorney legal advocates specialize in intensive assistance for victims/survivors who are ready to pursue civil legal remedies, with a focus on Civil Protection Orders (CPOs). They help with safety planning, provide support in court proceedings, and refer victims/survivors to other resources they may need. The **Legal Advocacy Program** provides a foundation from which our clients can begin their journey to safety. For many of the folks we serve, our non-attorney services sufficiently meet their needs, but those with more complex legal needs benefit greatly from access to and support from a licensed attorney. PSG provides **attorney services** in the following ways:

- **Divorce and Custody Clinics:** Clients interested in filing for Dissolution of Marriage and/or Allocation of Parental Responsibilities as a result of their victimization can access pro bono attorney assistance through a bi-monthly clinic staffed by PSG's roster of volunteer attorneys. Additionally, one legal clinic per month is conducted in Spanish.
- **Lawyers for Victims (LFV):** In this innovative program, PSG contracts directly with experienced and trauma-informed attorneys for a flat-fee rate to represent some clients at their Permanent Civil Protection Order hearing.
- **In-house staff attorneys:** Staff attorneys provide legal advice and support to PSG clients, primarily in domestic relations and complex CPO matters. Services provided include consultations, case strategy sessions, hearing preparation sessions, limited representation, and full representation.

Project Safeguard's model of pairing wraparound civil legal advocacy with multi-issue legal representation for people impacted by gender-based violence is unique in our service area.

2022

HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SERVICES

In 2022, we resumed Spanish Divorce and Custody Clinics, which had been paused since the start of the pandemic. Our clients whose primary language is not English need intensive assistance with these processes to ensure they have sufficient support in understanding the steps and translating information into English for the required paperwork. During our Spanish Divorce and Custody Clinics, each participant meets one-on-one with an attorney to facilitate this, whereas our English Divorce and Custody Clinics are facilitated by a single attorney who answers general questions for all participants, so these can be more easily facilitated in a virtual environment.

SYSTEM CHANGE INVOLVEMENT

Our Executive Director, Jennifer Eyl, was appointed by the Governor of Colorado to serve on the Mandatory Reporting Task Force that began meeting in 2022. This task force is housed in the Office of the Colorado Child Protection Ombudsman (CPO). It was established in 2022 with the passage of House Bill 22-1240 and exists to analyze the effectiveness of and issues with the law requiring individuals from specific professions, including some victim advocates, to report suspected child abuse or neglect.

Our Legal Director, Amy Pohl, was elected Vice Chair for the Colorado Human Trafficking Council, which she was appointed to serve on by the Governor of Colorado in 2019. This Council is housed in the Colorado Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice. It was established in 2014 with the passage of House Bill 14-1273 and exists to prevent and eliminate human trafficking in Colorado.

PSG also began facilitating the statewide Expert Witness Workgroup in 2022, which was previously facilitated by Violence Free Colorado. This workgroup, consisting of advocates and allied professionals, meets regularly to discuss best practices for providing expert testimony in civil and criminal cases related to domestic violence and sexual assault.

2022

HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

STAFFING

Amy Pohl was promoted from Senior Staff Attorney to Legal Director at the start of 2022 and currently supervises two staff attorneys and the Attorney Services Program Assistant, which is a new position added in 2022, as well as taking on her own caseload.

The organization also added a Grants and Development Manager (now Development Director) and a Finance Director in 2022, to focus on diversifying the organization's funding and planning for the future.

TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNICATIONS

In October 2022, PSG launched a new and improved website, created by [Boomerang Marketing](#). This was a long overdue update, and the result is an accessible online presence for the organization that ensures information on our services and impact are readily available to those seeking services and to the general public. Head over to www.PSGhelps.org to [join our email list](#), learn more about [who we are](#) and [what we do](#), [make a donation](#), and learn other ways to [get involved](#) with our work. The [News & Publications](#) page also highlights articles and media featuring Project Safeguard.



2022

HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In September 2022 our Grants and Finance Director, Nancy Olson, was recognized for her legacy of work when she received a Purple Ribbon Award for Lifetime Achievement from [DomesticShelters.org](https://www.DomesticShelters.org). PSG staff and partners were thrilled to see Nancy receive this honor. In the nomination, our current Executive Director, Jennifer Eyl, said this of Nancy:



NANCY OLSON



“ Thanks to Nancy’s leadership, vision, and skill, PSG is thriving in ways that no one could have imagined [when she was hired as Executive Director]. Her entire career has been dedicated to helping organizations function efficiently, succeed in their missions and, most of all, provide excellent services to their clients and constituents. ”

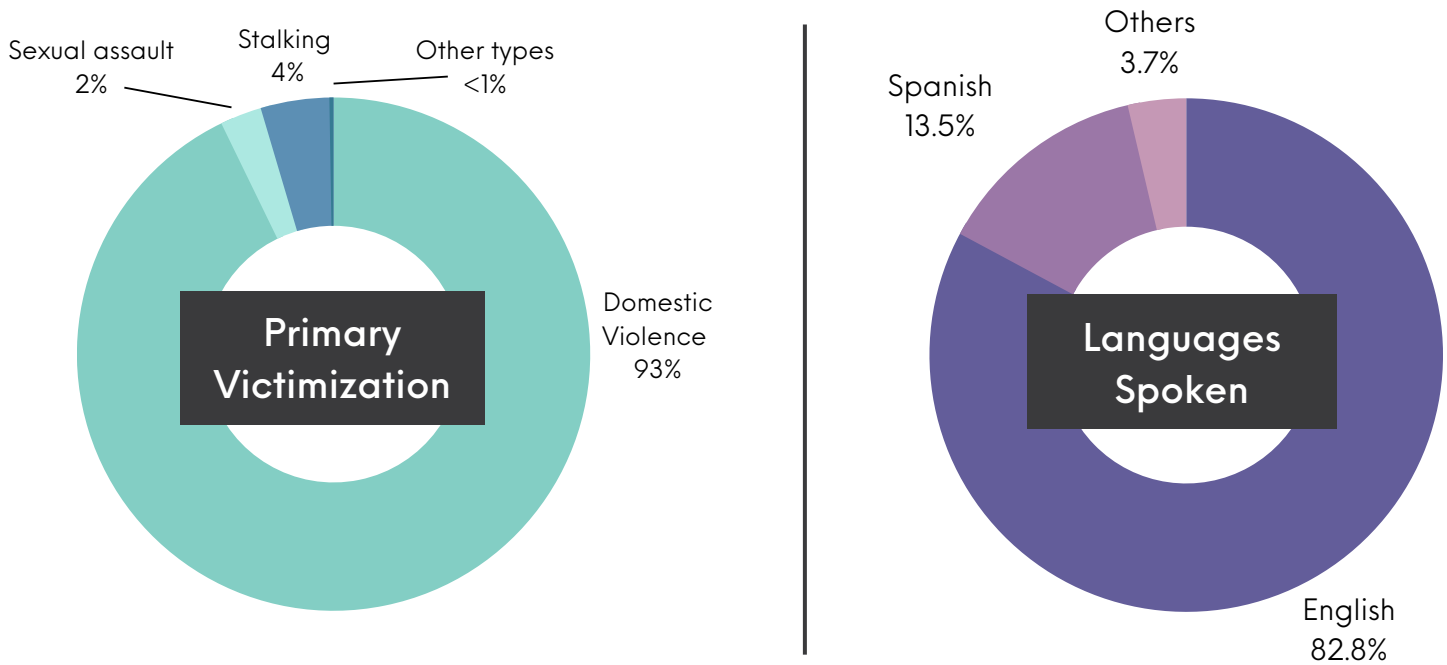
Nancy then celebrated her retirement in November of 2022, after nearly 10 years at PSG and a decades-long career in the nonprofit sector, most of which was spent working in domestic violence services at the local, state, and national level.

At PSG, Nancy served as Executive Director from 2013–2020, then stepped into the role of Grants and Finance Director as she prepared for retirement. She supported a smooth transition for Jennifer Eyl to step into the Executive Director role and helped build necessary infrastructure to ensure a stable future for the organization.

Nancy helped grow a small organization into a force for civil legal services for survivors, expanding and strengthening our Legal Advocacy Program and bringing to life our Lawyers for Victims Program and comprehensive attorney services. Thanks to Nancy’s vision and hard work, she left the organization with a much larger budget, staff, and impact on the community than when she was first hired. Her countless contributions to PSG and this field will have a lasting impact and we are deeply grateful for all the ways that Nancy contributed to the organization’s success!

PROGRAM IMPACT DATA

In 2022, PSG provided legal advocacy and/or attorney services to **763 victims/survivors of gender-based violence** through approximately **350 in-person and more than 3000 phone and email contacts**.



Of the total clients served, **133 (17%) received consultation or representation from a PSG staff attorney** and **48 (6%) were represented by a contract attorney** through our Lawyers for Victims program.

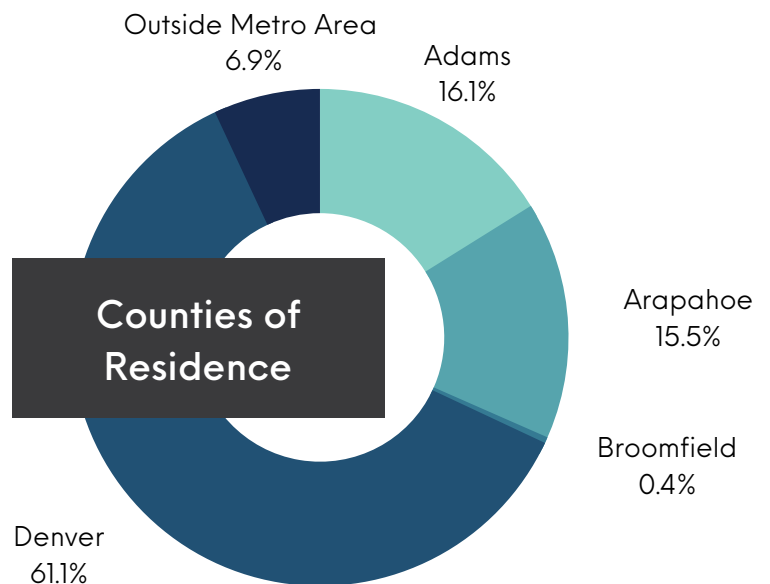
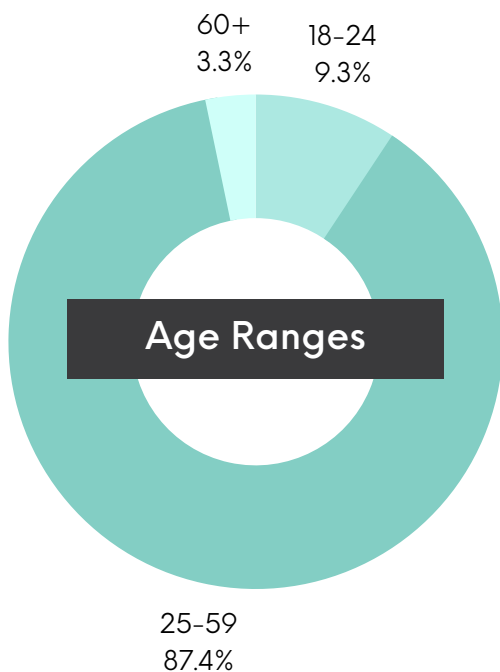
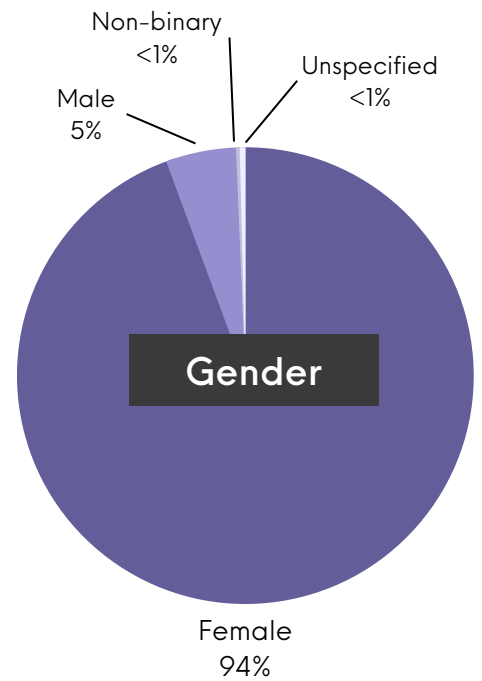
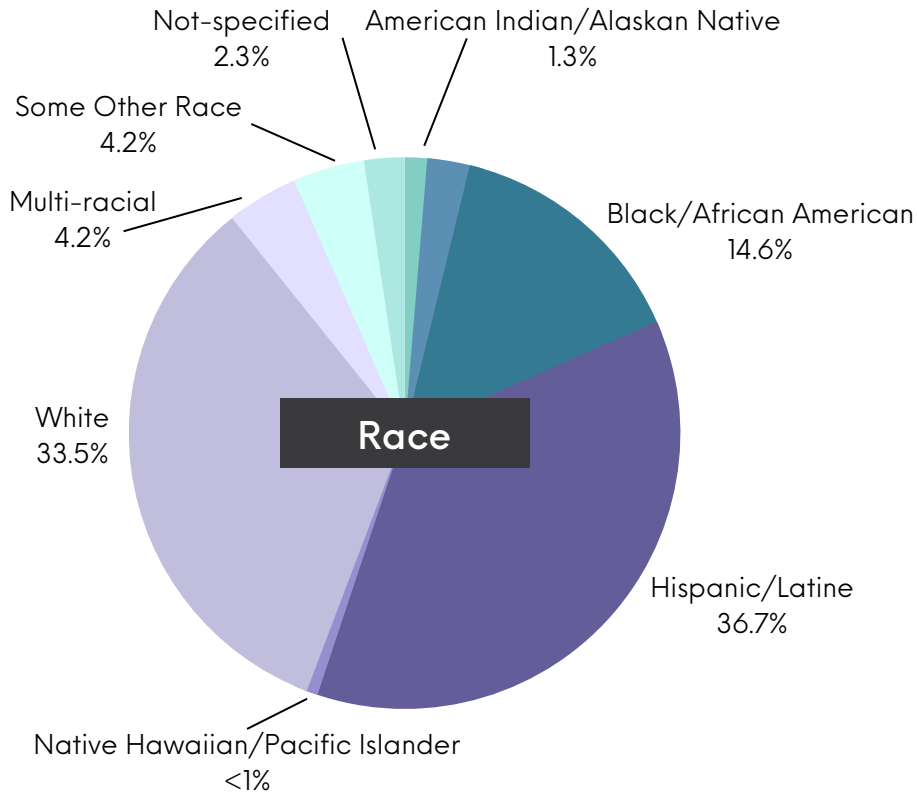
Approximately **13% of services were provided in Spanish and services were provided in a total of 17 languages**. In addition to English and Spanish, clients were served in Amharic, Arabic, Bengali, Burmese, French, Indonesian, Mongolian, Nepali, Persian, Romanian, Somali, Swahili, Twi, and Uzbek.

COMMUNITY TRAININGS

PSG staff reached more than 570 community members through 5 awareness raising events and 18 trainings. Topics included PSG services, civil protection orders, safety planning, DV and civil cases involving children, mandatory reporting, how DV intersects with domestic relations cases, survivors' legal rights and options, and providing trauma-informed and survivor-centered services.



CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS





CLIENT TESTIMONIALS

We felt like such a burden was lifted from our shoulders. Our advocate made me feel heard and helped get a referral for an attorney. We are beyond grateful for Project Safeguard. We had all but given up and with the help of our attorney referral we had a successful outcome at court.

I worked with [PSG advocate] and she went above and beyond helping me navigate the court system. As someone who is educated in Compliance and Public Health, I thought I would be able to navigate things easier when I was first faced with this issue of needing a TPO and PPO. Initially, I felt lost and like I had made a mistake even filing because the paperwork and jumping from one place to the other felt daunting and unattainable, then I met [my advocate]. She helped me solidify pro-bono lawyers and a Private Process Server at a time I felt completely disheartened and terrified by the whole situation. She answered all of my questions, met with me multiple times, and provided court support on two different occasions. I truly do not believe I could have done this process without her and Project Safeguard. I feel much more confident moving forward in this process, though hopefully, I never have to go through this process again. My deepest gratitude goes out to [my advocate] for being such an empathetic and amazing supporter throughout this process. Thank you, thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to making sure I felt confident in the process and safe.

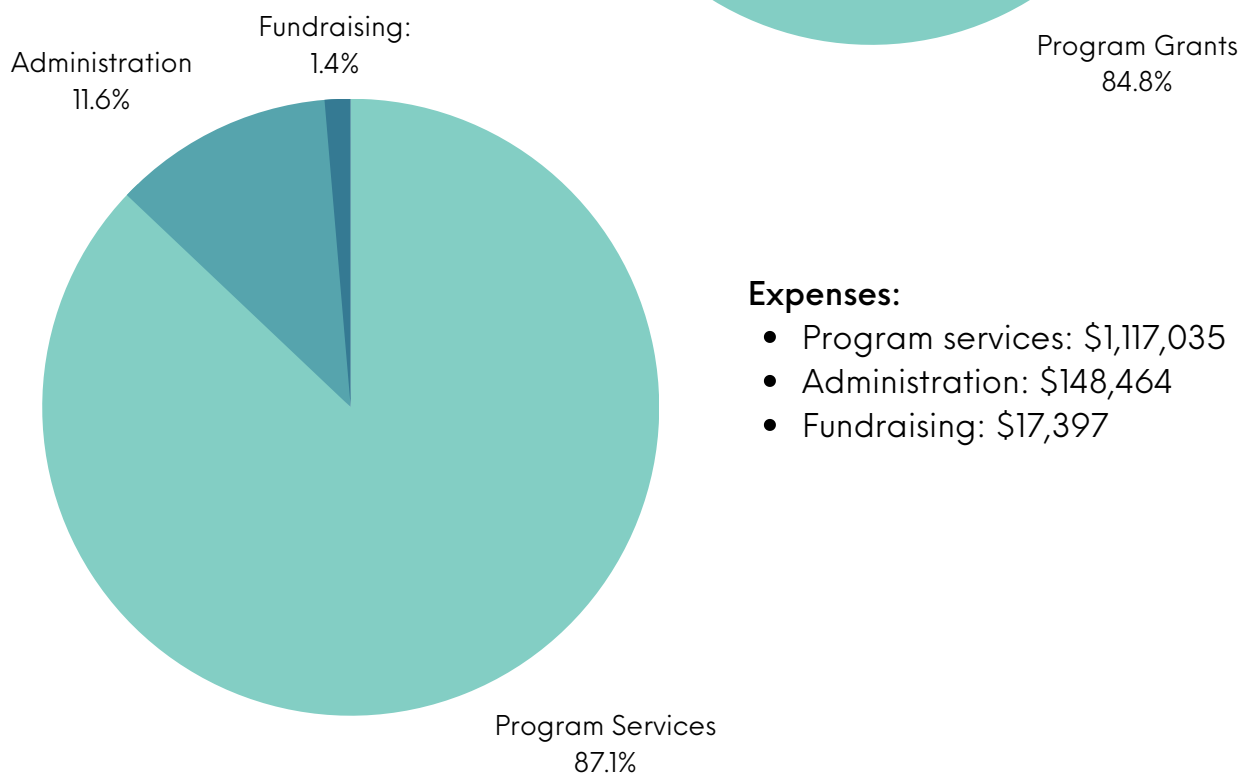
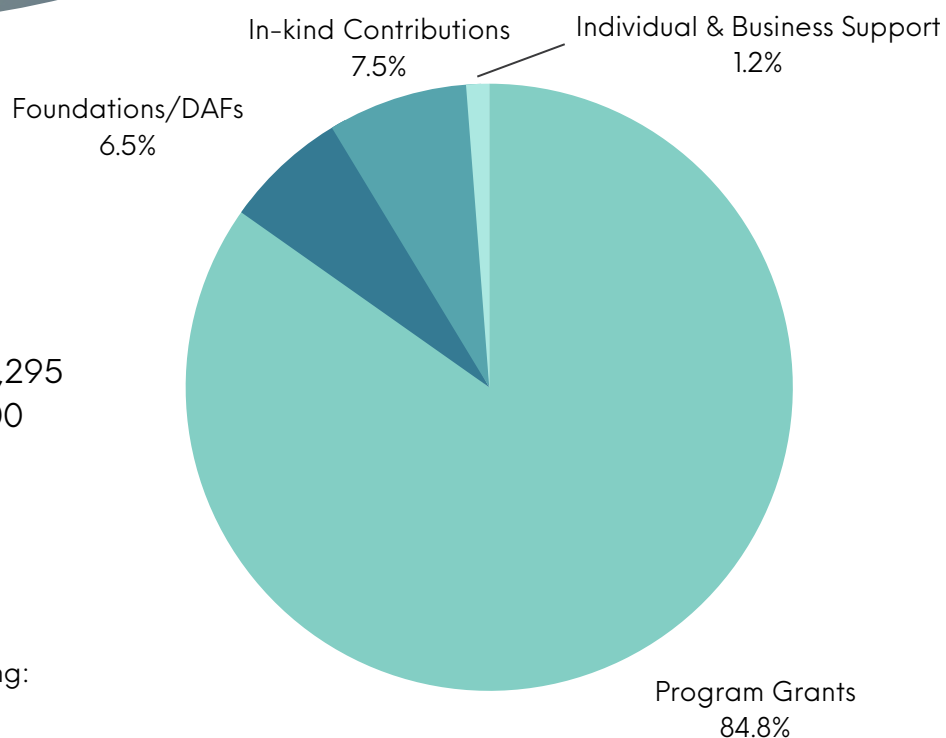
I feel very fortunate you were there as I was going through a 'moment' being affected by it all. Thank you, again, for sitting with me and for your thoughts and insights. I'm so grateful to you for all your support, truly!



FINANCIALS

Income/Revenue:

- Program Grants: \$992,720
- Foundations/DAFs: \$76,658
- Individuals & Businesses: \$14,295
- In-kind contributions: \$87,300



Expenses:

- Program services: \$1,117,035
- Administration: \$148,464
- Fundraising: \$17,397

We are immensely grateful to more than 65 individuals and businesses, nine foundations and donor-advised funds, and seven government agencies who provided financial support to the organization in 2022. Our work on behalf of survivors of gender-based violence would not be possible without these contributions and grants.



STAFF AND BOARD

PSG has a staff of 15 people providing services in four locations throughout metro Denver. Because of the nature of our work, the safety of our staff is of utmost importance, and we chose not to publish the names of all staff in this report. We appreciate each and every member of the staff for their important role in helping PSG achieve its mission! Below are the names of staff who were in leadership positions in 2022, along with our 2022 Board Members:

LEADERSHIP STAFF

- **Jennifer Eyl**, Executive Director
- **Nancy Olson**, Grants and Finance Director (thru 11/22)
- **Amy Pohl**, Legal Director
- **Shae Davis**, Legal Advocacy Program Manager (thru 10/22)
- **Jenn Doe**, Grants and Development Manager
- **BethAnne O’Keefe**, Finance Director (from 9/22)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- **Laura Johnson-Morris**, President
- **Anne Wintemute**, Treasurer
- **Alexis Freet**, Secretary
- **Heather Strack**, Board Member
- **Jordan Smith**, Board Member
- **Taylor Rosty**, Board Member
- **Katie Ziegler**, Board Member
- **Rosi Gasca**, Board Member





VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS

We rely on volunteer attorneys to staff our Divorce and Custody Clinics (offered in English and Spanish) and provide immigration consultations to our clients. In 2022, more than 20 volunteer attorneys contributed nearly 300 hours of donated time.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to support our clients! We couldn't achieve our mission without your support.

CONTRACT ATTORNEY ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We also want to acknowledge the 9 attorneys who supported 48 Project Safeguard clients through our Lawyers for Victims program in 2022. These attorneys work with us on a contract basis to represent clients at Permanent Protection Order (PPO) hearings or in immigration proceedings related to their victimization. **We are grateful to have partners like you to help us to serve more clients, more deeply than we could on our own!**

If you are an attorney, licensed in Colorado, and are interested in providing volunteer or contract services to Project Safeguard clients, please visit [our website](#) to learn more and submit an interest form. We value our partnerships with the local legal community!



Project
Safeguard
Justice and Safety

Scan the QR code below or visit www.PSGhelps.org to learn more about Project Safeguard and how you can stay connected with us.



December 5



ColoradoGivesDay.org

Save the Date and Give Where You Live!

For 24 hours on December 5, Colorado will come together to raise funds for local nonprofits, and we're excited to be part of the day! Early giving begins November 1 and donations can be made to Project Safeguard at <https://www.coloradogives.org/event/Cogives2023>.