

2022 Annual Report



2022



A Word from Merrill Cousin Executive Director

2021 was another wild year, with the easing of many of the pandemic restrictions being tempered by difficult economic, social, and political turmoil. Despite this, we continued to respond to the ongoing global pandemic and its economic and social effects. We created new ways of operating that capitalize on innovations spawned by the pandemic, and that more fully reflect our anti-racist values. Despite the many ongoing challenges, the Coalition and our member programs remain strong and cohesive, continuing to demonstrate the need for, and power of, collective action.

We are happy to share our activities and accomplishments from 2021 with you here. We want to express our gratitude to all of you, our members, supporters, and allies, for working with us, in coalition and community, to end gender-based violence and to promote safe and equitable relationships. We are in a time of great change and transformation. Together, we have the power to steer our transition towards the safe and just future we all are striving for.

CEGV 2021 Summary

The Coalition Ending Gender-Based Violence (the Coalition) was established in 1990 in King County, Washington, as the King County Coalition Against Domestic Violence, a membership organization dedicated to ending domestic violence and improving the regional response to the problem.

In 2015, the Coalition resolved to change its mission to include sexual assault, trafficking, and other forms of gender-based violence, and the organization changed its name to the Coalition Ending Gender-Based Violence on November 16, 2015. We work to end gender-based violence and promote equitable relationships through collective action for social change. We support the efforts of our approximately 40 member organizations so that they have tools and resources to work more effectively.

The Coalition fights for protective legislation, policies, and funding at the state and local levels to improve how our communities handle domestic violence, sexual assault, and trafficking, connects professionals across disciplines to share ideas and coordinate services, and offers trainings about current challenges and best practices.

Our Team



Merril Cousin

Executive Director



Lea Aromin

Director of Programs
and Membership



Kate Bovitch

Operations Manager



Paris Chapman

Transformative Justice &
Prevention Manager



Jennifer Dela Cruz

Housing Systems Manager



Noelle Evangelista

Fund Development Manager



Tracee Parker

Family Law Project Manager



Trenecia Wilson

Trauma and Behavioral Health
Systems Manager

Our 2021 Board of Directors



Officers

Jamie Whalen, Co-Chair
Community Volunteer

Kim Suk Holland, Co-Chair
DV Advocacy Manager, Project DVORA, Jewish Family Services

Donny Wileto, Secretary
Development Director, Childcare Resources

Aniket Bandekar, Treasurer
Senior Program Manager, Amazon Web Services

Board Members

Cristina Johnson, Director
Community Volunteer

Shida Bonakdar, Director
Survivor Advocate, New Beginnings

Norah Erwin-Stewart, Director
Program Manager, Seattle/King County Public Health

Melissa Filion, Director
Community Volunteer

Kate Francis, Director
Staff Attorney, KCBA Family Law Mentor Program

Ada Onyali, Director
Mobile Community Advocate, DAWN

Renata Bryant, Director
Community Volunteer

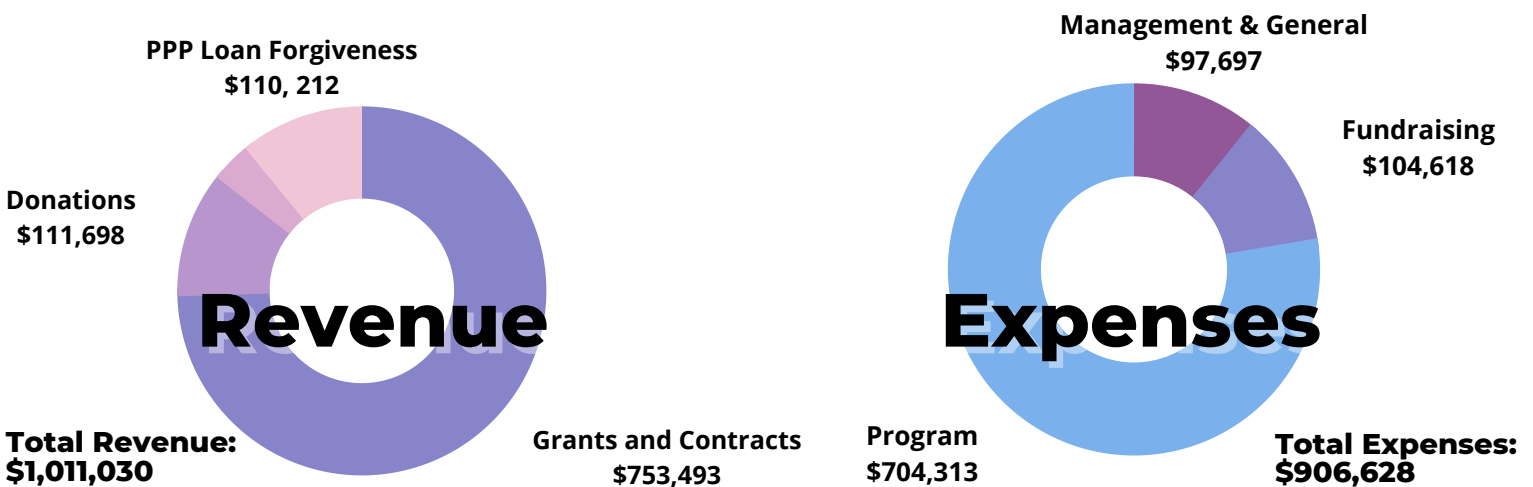
Anthony Green, Director
Advocate, KC Protection Order Advocacy Program

Monte Jewell, Director
Attorney, Project DVORA

Kyunghee Lee, Director
API Chaya

Danielle McNeary, Director
Attorney, Sexual Violence Law Center

Our 2021 Financials



Equipping People with Helpful Information & Tools

We provide training and resources Coalition members, other professionals, and community members so that they can provide effective services and supports that center survivor well-being. In 2021:



Family Law Trainings for 250+ Professionals

We provided multiple trainings to attorneys, advocates, mental health providers, and other professionals involved in family law cases on domestic violence and child custody issues, the impact of domestic violence and family court on survivors and their children, and how to support survivors engaged in custody matters. This included training a second cohort of parenting evaluators on how to utilize the Coalition's IPV Impact Assessment.



Training for 130 Advocates & Mental Health Providers

We coordinated training for more than 130 mental health, chemical dependency, domestic violence, and sexual assault professionals throughout King County about strengthening therapeutic responses to domestic violence, religious issues and domestic violence, and inter-generational trauma for advocates and behavioral health providers. We also offered a trauma-informed yoga series for advocates.



350+ Providers Trained on DV and Housing

We trained over 150 advocates on the DV housing assessment process throughout the year, and we provided training on the intersection of DV and homelessness to several hundred homelessness service providers at a dozen distinct agencies.



Streamlined Access to Survivor Services

We created and launched the "New Day" Gender-based violence resource database and trained hundreds of advocates on how to navigate the system. Together with coordinating DVCHAP and supporting the regional DV HopeLine, our efforts have significantly streamlined access to domestic violence survivor services King County.

Connecting Across Disciplines

Survivors of sexual and domestic violence need their communities and service providers to be coordinated and working together. Survivors need us all to address the gender, racial, and economic disparities that drive violence and abuse. Some of our collective efforts towards our vision of safe and just communities in 2021 included:



Serving as a Conduit for Information

The Coalition convened and coordinated the Family Law Work Group, which became the main conduit for information flow between the court, GBV advocates, and attorneys. As the pandemic and its effects continued to cause major changes, disruptions, and backlogs in the court system, this role became increasingly critical.



Amplifying the Perspectives of Our Members

We represented the perspectives of our members, and the thousands of survivors they serve, to local and regional officials responsible for implementing human service policies, and we provided opportunities for members to weigh in on issues such as survivors needs and data confidentiality.



Strengthening and Expanding Partnerships

We continued significant coordination with other regional human service and homelessness coalitions, and other alliances working to promote economic, racial, and social justice. In addition, we convened regular meetings between DV housing and family emergency shelter providers to coordinate services.



Promoting Transformational Approaches

We completed a groundbreaking participatory research project focused on transformative strategies for preventing gender-based violence through a racial justice lens, driving new resources towards community-led and culturally relevant prevention strategies. In addition, we connected our work with the work of grassroots community groups working for racial and gender justice.



Leading a Learning Cohort

We deepened the region's transformative justice and prevention work, connecting 45 survivor advocates and community members in a virtual "learning cohort" to learn about, practice, and integrate transformative and restorative justice principles and practices into their work.



Engaged 25 Agencies with Housing Resources

We launched the new domestic violence housing coordinated entry system (DVCHAP), including a specialized housing assessment and a new collaborative decision-making model. 235 assessments were made into 40 housing program openings between May–December of 2021.

Improving Public Policy & Funding



This year the Coalition rallied advocates, survivors, and community members to amplify the message: especially in light of the social and economic consequences of the pandemic, and ongoing racial and gender inequities, survivors of gender-based violence need more support and options than ever before.

Our advocacy efforts resulted in a

\$2.5m
increase!

We mobilized representatives from member programs to advocate for increased emergency and ongoing funding to address the skyrocketing demand for services for survivors. Our advocacy efforts at the local level resulted in a \$2.5 million increase in Seattle and King County funding for survivor services, and our participation in state and national advocacy efforts prevented devastating cuts to existing funding streams. This means that thousands more survivors in our region will be able to get the support they need to escape and heal from abuse and violence.



Funding for Community-based Alternatives to Public Safety

We continued to advance the ongoing work to build meaningful alternatives to the criminal legal system, including publicly advocating for funding for the King County Regional Peacekeepers Collective and increased Seattle funding for community-based alternatives to public safety. Throughout these efforts, we emphasized the fact that survivors of sexual and domestic violence need alternatives that are specifically tailored to the unique harms they've experienced and the ongoing danger that they face.

Response to the Homelessness Crisis

We advocated for multiple emergency and ongoing funding initiatives to respond to our region's housing affordability and homelessness crisis, and we mobilized members to support municipal, county, and state eviction moratoriums and other tenants' rights legislation.

