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# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



## WELCOME LETTER

### DEAR COMMUNITY,

America re-elected a president who abuses power and weaponizes it against immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ+ and trans people, women, and anyone who does not fit his supremacist agenda or pledges allegiance to him. Since taking office, his administration has carried out mass raids, imposed detention and deportation quotas, separated families at routine check-ins, gutted asylum protections, defunded legal aid, and stacked immigration courts with judges whose job is to deny relief.

Our team pushed harder than we ever have. More than 1,400 families came through our doors in 2025 seeking legal and social services. They came carrying fear and grief and exhaustion.

When we speak with families about the impact of our work, we often hear, "We felt relief. We felt trust and peace of mind when we received the news that you were going to take our case." Time and time again they describe a profound, almost indescribable weight that lifts when they finally have a knowledgeable advocate in their corner.

Policy decisions have made immigration relief harder to access and more resource-intensive to fight for. Applications now take months longer than

they should. Cases that once required one filing now require three. We are fighting asylum claims against countries of origin and unrelated third countries.

We stay on a case from beginning to end, no matter how challenging or resource-intensive the work becomes. And make no mistake: it has become increasingly challenging.

Our attorneys prevailed on three federal habeas corpus cases in 2025 to challenge unlawful detentions directly linked to the current administration's arbitrary detention and deportation quotas. While we successfully secured the swift release of all three clients, these cases represent a deeply troubling trend. The litigation necessary to vindicate our clients' rights has resulted in their immigration court dates being pushed even further into the future, prolonging uncertainty for families already facing enormous hardship.

“

Thanks to the lawyer and your team, I felt trust and freedom.

*Maria*



## WELCOME LETTER

We litigated against the federal government over funding cuts that threatened the access to legal aid that immigrant youth depend on. We worked alongside coalition partners to advocate for universal representation in immigration and health care access regardless of status in California. We helped pass a sanctuary city ordinance in Berkeley and secured funding to sustain removal defense work. We launched consultation clinics with community partners and expanded pro bono representation.

Our behavioral health program completed its first full year. We launched it in 2024 because legal representation alone wasn't reaching the whole person. The client sitting across from you might also be hungry, sleepless, carrying trauma that follows them into the courtroom.

You're reading this report alongside a new look and a new tagline: The world we need is ours to build.

**Need:** Because this is urgent. **Ours:** Because the people build it. **To build:** We are done waiting for systems that were never designed to protect our communities to suddenly start.

SJC now works across litigation, policy advocacy, direct legal services, behavioral health, and community power. The systems harming our clients don't stop at one category. This work touches racial justice, health access, gender equity, LGBTQ+ rights.

The fight keeps us going as it always has.

After everything 2025 asked of people, our community kept showing up in direct opposition to authoritarianism. Volunteers learned their rights and became court and legal observers. Partners referred clients and shared resources. Funders believed in this work and invested in it. And our clients had the courage to seek our services.

### Gautam Jagannath

Founder & Executive Director

### Emily Abraham

Founder & Legal Director

The world we **need**  
is **ours to build**.  
Not someday.  
Now.  
Together.  
*Seguimos.*



# BY THE NUMBERS: LEGAL SERVICES

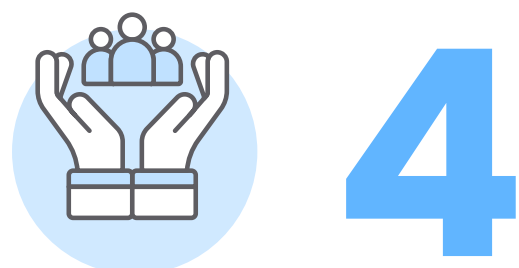
In 2025, SJC provided immigration legal services to approximately 1,430 clients across Northern California, Central Valley, and Bay Area not including intakes.

## INTAKE

Free phone consultations



Intake clinics hosted



With the support of volunteers the department hosted four intake clinics over the year. These clinics resulted in the completion of 72 intakes over four days, compared to an estimated 18 intakes that would typically have been completed during the same timeframe.

This cuts down on waiting time significantly for individuals and families who don't have time.

## USCIS FILINGS & APPROVALS

CASE TYPE	FILED	APPROVED
Green Card	198	85
Asylum	48	5
Visa for victims of crime	32	38
Family Reunification	29	13
Asylum for minors	11	1
Other*	15	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>149</b>

\*"Other" includes but is not limited to: Appeals, Naturalization, TPS, T-Visa, Humanitarian Parole, Consular Processing.

Our team prepared and represented clients for 18 USCIS interviews.

USCIS adjudication routinely spans multiple years. Approvals shown may reflect cases filed in prior years, while some 2025 filings remain pending adjudication.

“

I feel safe. The people at SJC have been helping me a lot. I really appreciate that they ask me what I think, how I'm feeling, and whether I'm doing okay. They prioritize you as a person first. That shows how much they truly care about helping people.

- Tomas



# BY THE NUMBERS: LEGAL SERVICES

## WORK PERMITS

 **334**

**Work permit applications filed**

Work permit adjudications may reflect applications filed in prior years. Approval totals and filing totals should not be interpreted as the same-year approval rate.

 **396**

**Work permit approvals secured**

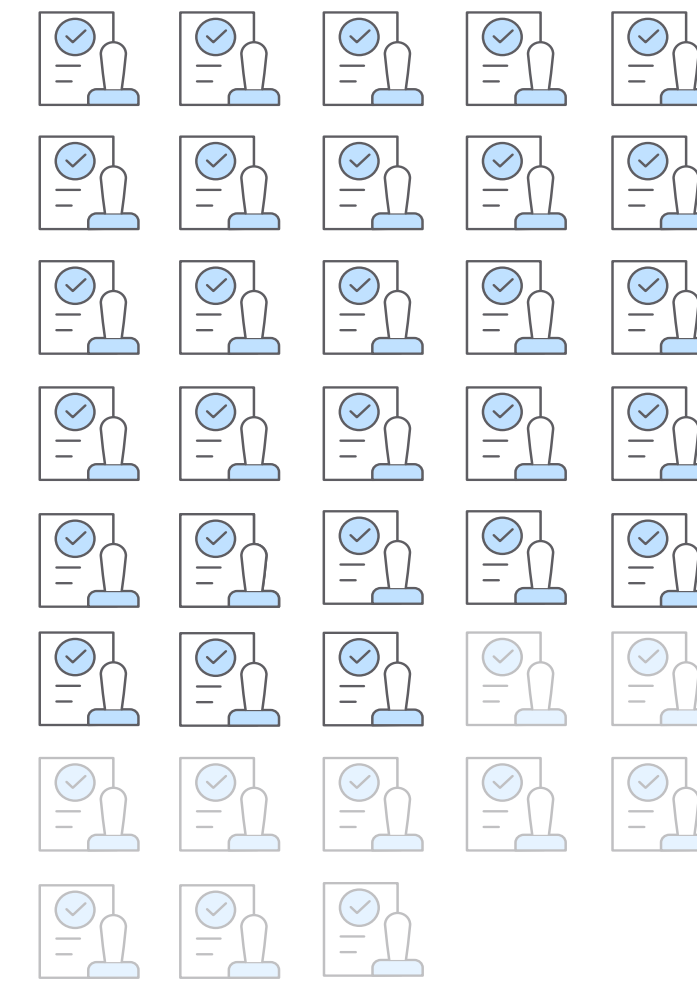
## YOUTH CASES

**Youth Protection cases granted**



**29 youth protection applications granted**  
(1 case ongoing)


**Court petitions granted**



**28 court petitions granted**  
(remaining cases in progress)

## PRO BONO PROGRAM

**Pro bono clinics hosted**

 **20** 13 Green Card, 4 Work Permit, 3 Youth Protection

**Clients served through clinics**

 **224**

**Trained volunteers**

 **231**



USCIS eliminated Deferred Action for youth protection beneficiaries in 2025, forcing families into protracted litigation to secure the relief they are entitled to.

The majority of youth protection clients originated from Guatemala, El Salvador, Mexico, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Clients spoke Spanish as well as Indigenous languages including Mam, K'iche', Kaqchikel, and Tz'utujil highlighting the importance of culturally and linguistically accessible legal services for youth from diverse backgrounds.

# “

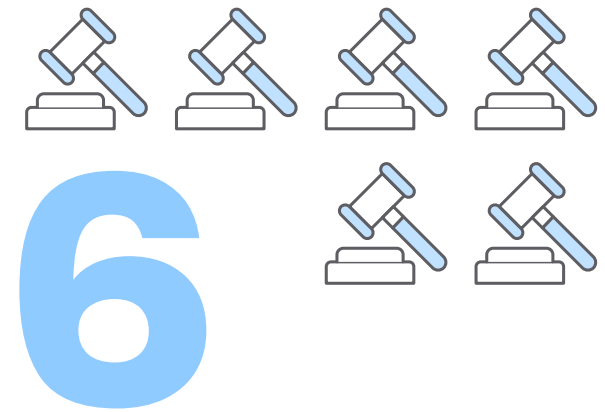
**I can work legally. I feel calmer because I am legally in the U.S.**

*- Anonymous*

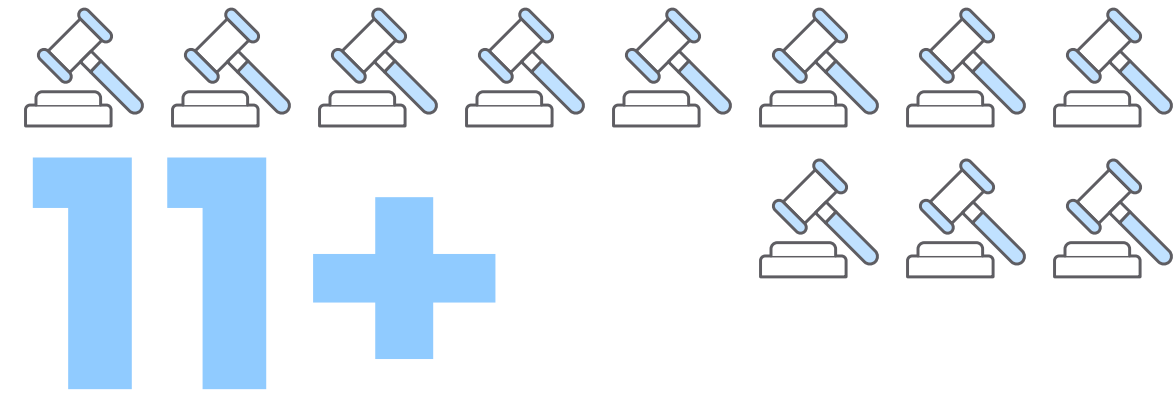
# BY THE NUMBERS: LEGAL SERVICES

## COURT ADVOCACY & APPEALS

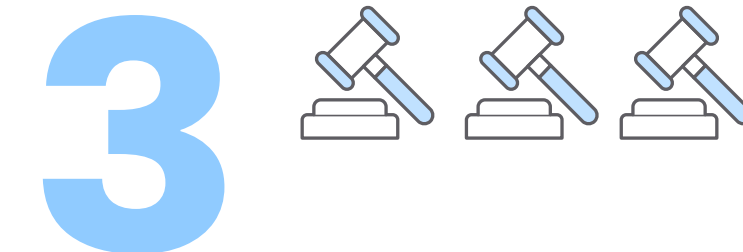
### Ninth Circuit Appeals



### Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) cases



### Federal habeas corpus cases (All clients released from detention)



Appellate caseload surged due to restrictive changes in asylum case law affecting gender-based and family-based persecution claims.

“

**I feel grateful and confident that with SJC, everything was possible.**

*- Anonymous*

42

**Successful Case Outcomes for Families Including**

27

**In-Court Asylum Grants**



# BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

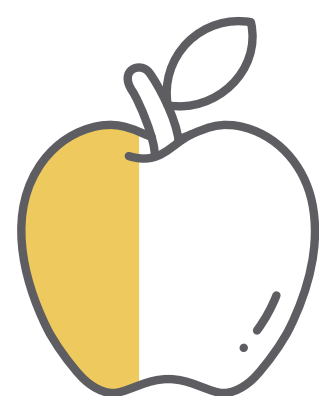
## HOLISTIC CARE

In 2025, our program provided direct services to 134 clients, addressing behavioral health, social support, legal navigation, and basic needs stabilization. Services were trauma-informed and culturally responsive, with specialized interventions for clients experiencing detention and deportation crises.

Services included comprehensive intake assessments, referrals to community resources for food, housing, healthcare, and legal aid, ongoing case management, and crisis intervention including support for clients facing detention or deportation emergencies.

## CLIENT NEEDS

### Food insecure



38%

### Housing insecure



37%

### Identified Needs Received a Referral



60%

\*The remaining 40% of clients who have not yet received a referral continue to be supported by our team, who will connect them to appropriate services as needs arise.



**The impact is very big because the opportunity the organization gave me is very important. Before that, I did not know what to do or where to go.**

- J.E.U.A

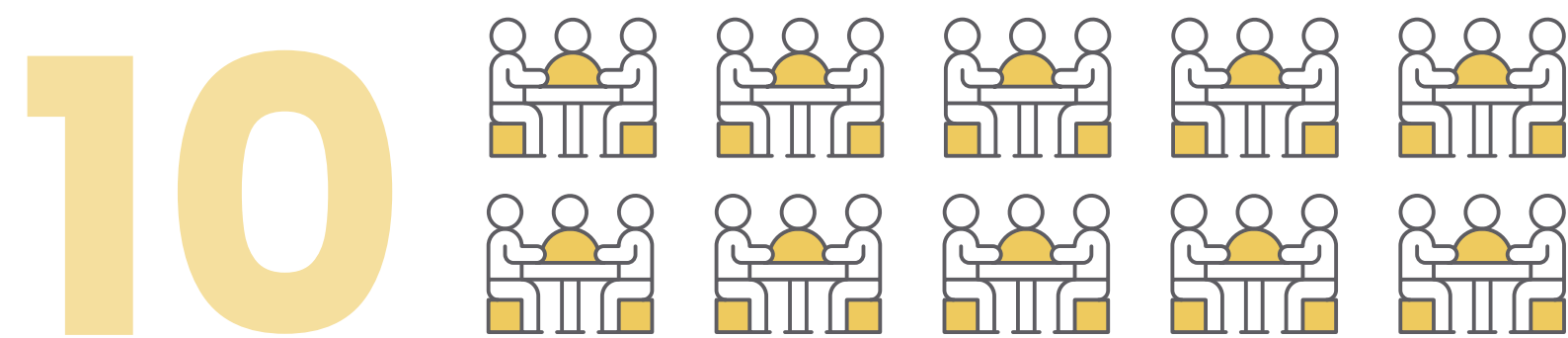


# BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

## PLÁTICAS CON PROPÓSITO

Community sessions open to all—clients and non-clients alike. Pláticas con Propósito provides a safe space for immigrant communities to connect, share experiences, and access mental health support in a culturally sensitive environment.

### Monthly sessions held



### Total participants



### Topics covered:

Coping with stress and trauma, accessing housing/food/healthcare/legal resources, community connections.

## COURT ACCOMPANIMENT



## STAFF WELLNESS



Our Behavioral Health Program offers virtual Healing Circles for SJC staff, creating a supportive space for education, guidance, and open participation. These sessions provide valuable tools to manage stress, anxiety, and emotions in a safe environment.



I feel closer to the other staff members that participated, and I had a moment to work on myself and reflect on important topics.

- Staff Member

### Training topics:

**Trauma-Informed Communication** during moments of fear

**Mental Health Awareness & Support**

**PRIDE** Working with Immigrant **LGBTQ+** Clients

# DONOR RECOGNITION

\$25k+

Liderazgo que Impulsa

\$10k-24.9k

Corazón Grande

\$5k-9.9k

Manos en Acción

\$1.5k-4.9k

Siempre Presente

\$1k-1.4k

Con Cariño

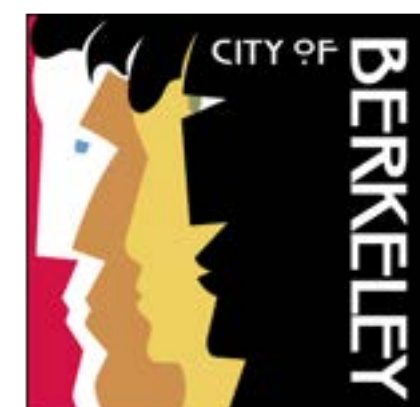
\$500-999

Fuerza Comunitaria



The State Bar of California

The Behavioral Health Recovery Services HEAR US initiative is funded by the California Department of Health Care Services, with support from The Center at Sierra Health Foundation as its administrative entity.



The Anna Catherine Foundation

FENWICK

KIRKLAND & ELLIS

COVINGTON



Charlie and Diane Abraham

Sarah Weisner  
Melissa Cochran  
Cassandra Hooks

UNIDOSUS  
STRONGER COMMUNITIES. STRONGER AMERICA.

Eric Hernández

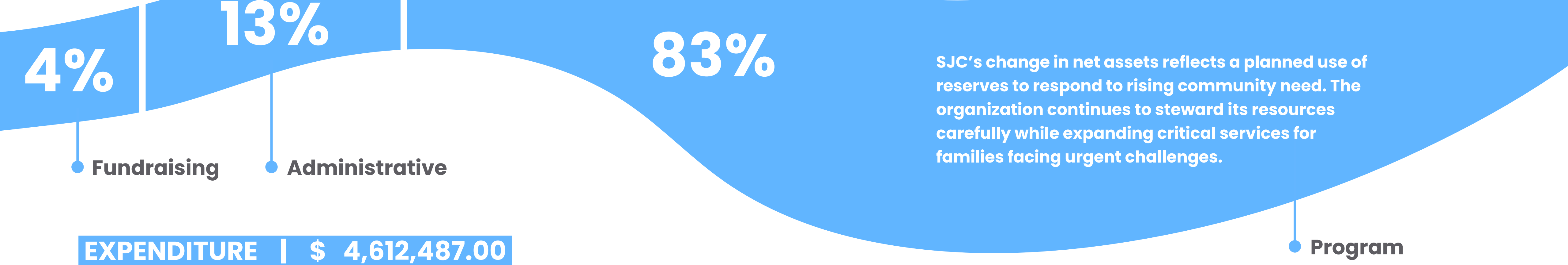
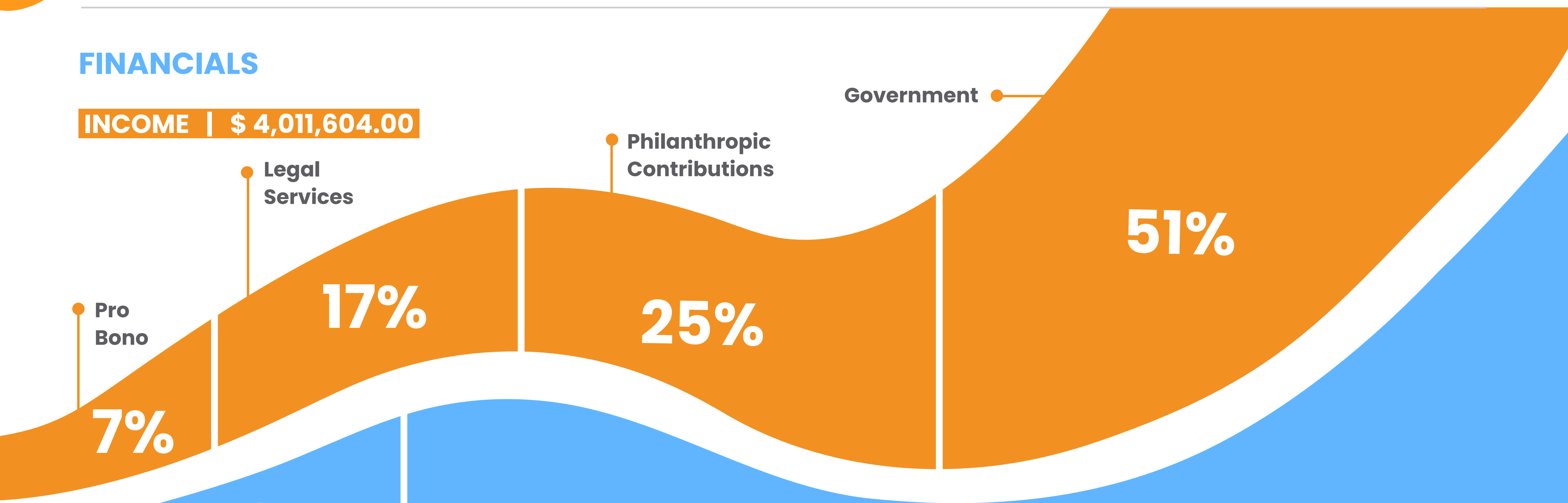
sesame



Our work would not be possible without the generosity and trust of those who support us. Every donation, partnership, and act of solidarity helps ensure that immigrants have access to the legal defense they deserve.

# FINANCIALS

**INCOME | \$ 4,011,604.00**

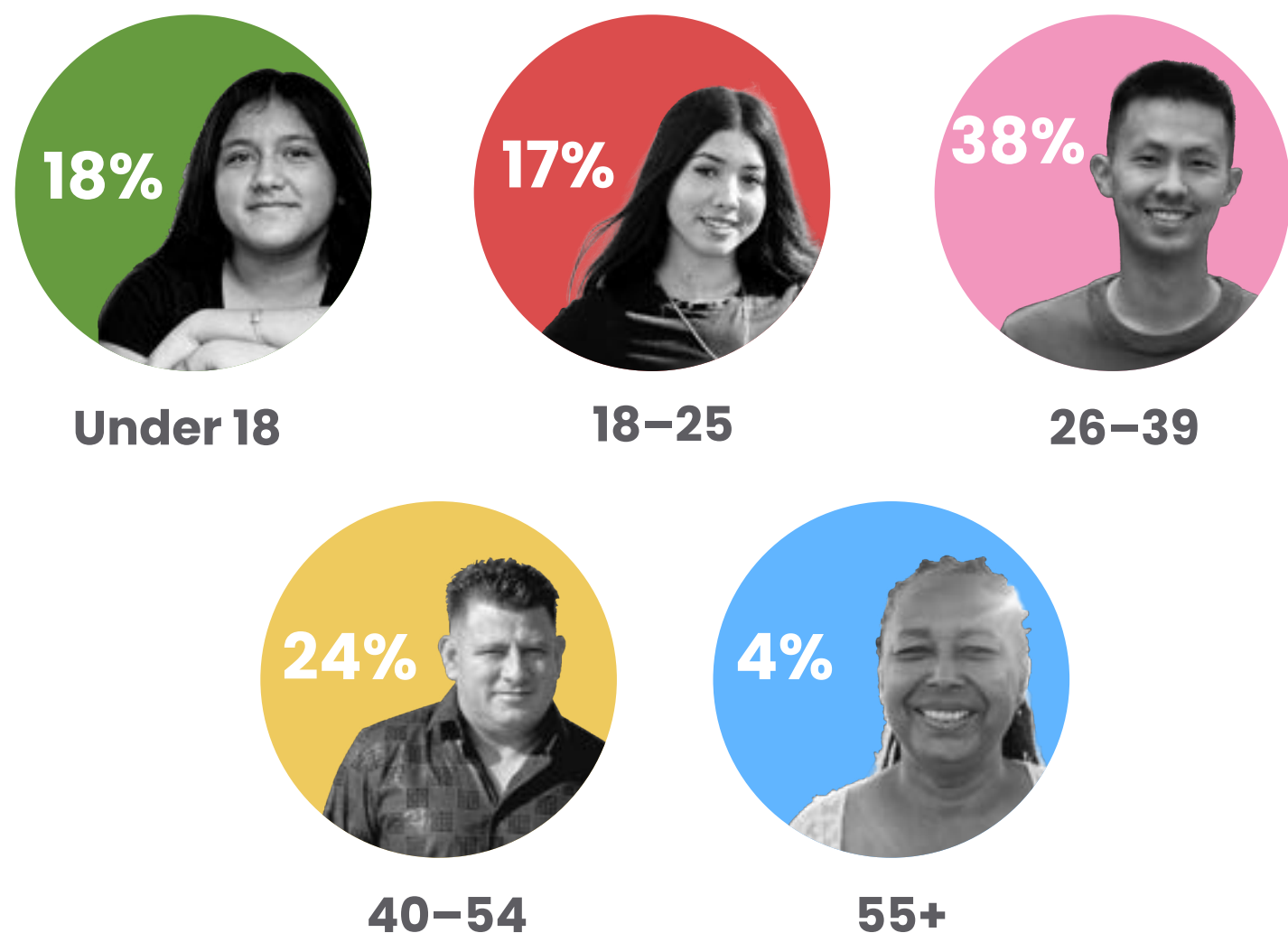


**EXPENDITURE | \$ 4,612,487.00**

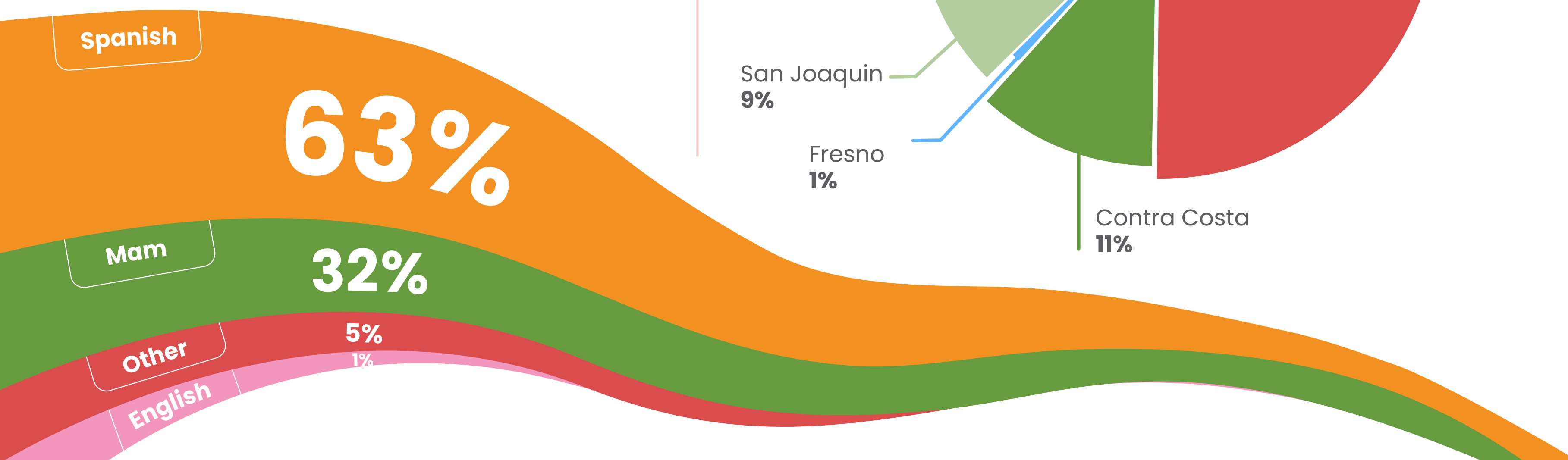
SJC's change in net assets reflects a planned use of reserves to respond to rising community need. The organization continues to steward its resources carefully while expanding critical services for families facing urgent challenges.

# COMMUNITY

## DEMOGRAPHICS

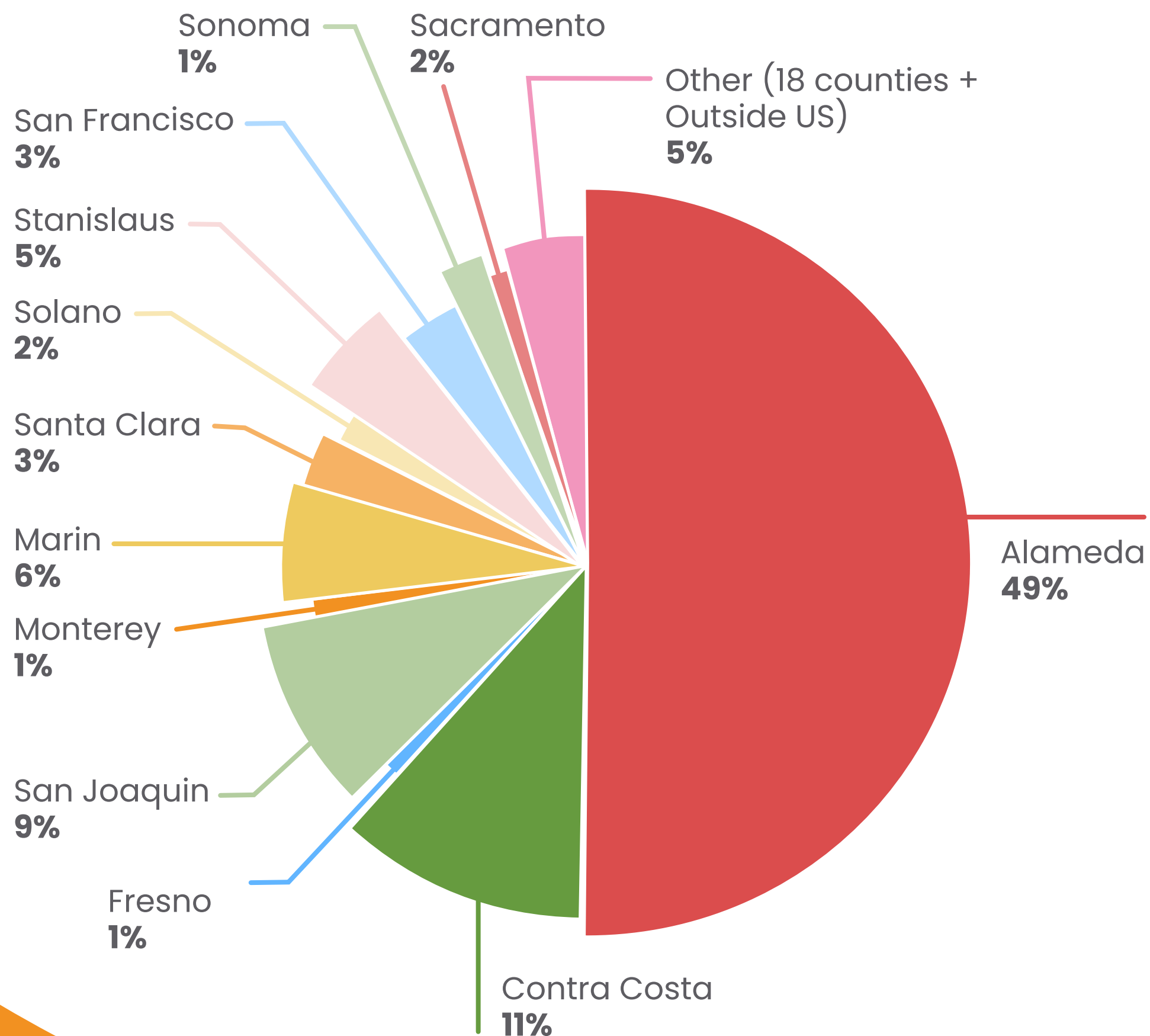


## LANGUAGES SERVED



## COUNTIES SERVED

31 California counties + clients outside the US



## COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



# CLOSING: "THIS ONE IS FOR YOU"

At Social Justice Collaborative, we have a tradition called Shout-Out Friday. Every week, we celebrate staff members who've done incredible work, in all the ways it shows up. The attorney who stayed late to file an emergency motion and kept a client out of detention. The behavioral health team member who sat with a client during Pláticas con Propósito and held space for emotions that had gone unspoken. The advocate who showed up to one meeting after another to defend our communities' rights.

**Today, we want to give a shout-out to all of you.**

2025 asked so much from our team, our clients, our partners, and from everyone who cares about this work. There were days that broke our hearts and nights we didn't sleep. Pero tú seguiste, y nosotros también.

One of the many things 2025 reminded us is that the community takes care of its own. Volunteers stepped up to meet calls to action, neighbors checked in on one another, friends helped people they'd never met, and we saw strangers become family. You trusted and supported this work because you understood that our freedom is intertwined with one another.

We know that immigrant rights work is racial justice, is health access, is human rights, is equity.

*Eso es amor.*

**A shout-out to our clients:** We see you and are in awe of your courage. We know how hard you've fought for your families. You trust us with your stories, and that trust is something we carry with care. Estamos con ustedes. Siempre.

**A shout-out to our partners:** We couldn't do this work without you. Between meetings, shared advocacy, referrals, collaboration, and shared resources we have made this work stronger because it's shared.

**And a shout-out to the SJC team:** This work asks you to carry other people's pain alongside your own. We know that, and we honor it. We are so proud of each and every one of you.

2025 wasn't easy. But it was honest. It was human. It proved that when people decide to take care of each other, fear doesn't win.

**This is our Shout-Out Friday for the whole year. For you.**


## CONTACT DETAILS

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## DONATE



## NEWSLETTER

