

2024

Annual Report



A Word From our Board President



JOHN OCHIRA
BOARD PRESIDENT

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity Gateway has to be a part of the incredible work happening in our community. To our dedicated employees who go above and beyond in bringing our mission to life, to our generous funders, to the community we have the privilege to serve, and to the partners who make our work possible—thank you. As we prepare to navigate a challenging environment, it is ever more important for us to stick together. We are stronger, more resilient, and more impactful together.

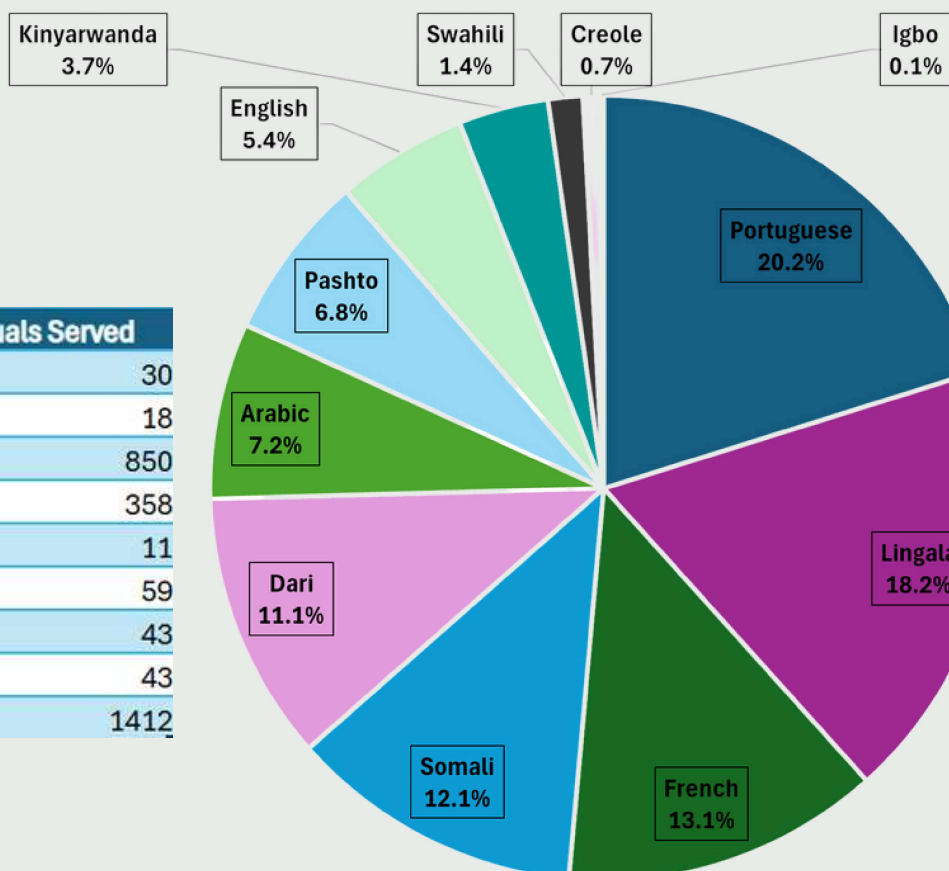
Overall Org 2024 Recap

What an incredible year 2024 has been for Gateway Community Services Maine! We are thrilled to carry the momentum of our mission and vision into 2025. Every day, we witness the resilience, strength, and determination of our communities through the vital services and welcoming spaces we provide. Whether it's supporting individuals as they adjust to a new home, pursue education, or find meaningful employment, GCSM is dedicated to fostering vibrant, connected lives and creating lasting impact.

In 2024, we proudly served 562 program-specific community members and welcomed over 850 individuals to events held in our space. Our community is beautifully diverse, with about half of those served speaking Portuguese, Lingala, or French, and many other languages represented, including Somali, Dari, Pashto, Arabic, Kinyarwanda, Swahili, Creole, and Igbo.

This annual report celebrates the hard work, dedication, and passion of our staff, volunteers, and community members. It highlights key accomplishments across our Wellness, Community, and Leadership programs, showcasing how each has contributed to building stronger, more connected communities. From advancing mental health and community health initiatives to empowering youth and tackling climate and community challenges, these programs have created meaningful opportunities and driven real change. As we look ahead to 2025, we are energized to continue this important work and deepen our impact together!

Primary Languages Spoken by GCSM Clients in 2024



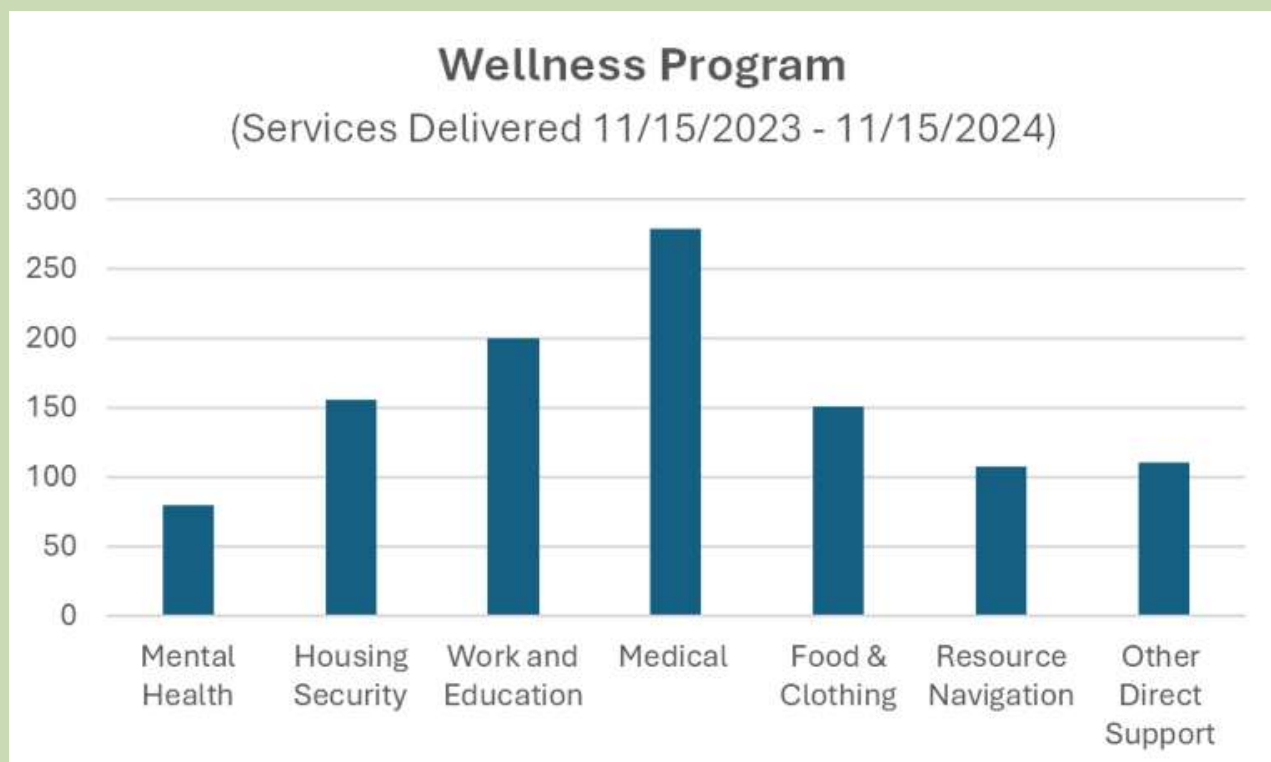
Programs	Individuals Served
Behavioral Health	30
Color of Climate	18
Community Events in Hub Space	850
Community Health Outreach	358
Community Youth Coalition	11
Digital Literacy & Education	59
Youth Homelessness Program	43
Youth Mentor Program	43
Total	1412

One Year Review Wellness Program



The Wellness Team provided approximately 1,100 direct service engagements in the past year. Specific services within these categories include immigration and legal resource referrals included virtual court hearings attended using GCSM's public computers (40), pregnancy and young mother-related supports (18), furniture deliveries (40), glasses obtained through free vision clinic (24), and dental services (6). The mental health services listed explicitly in this chart do not account for the para-counseling and emotional support aspects underlying most if not all other service encounters listed here.

Our Behavioral Health Program has facilitated four recurring mental wellness groups including Art Therapy in Portland (March – September), Outdoor Wellness in Lewiston (June – September), Women's Support Group in Lewiston (September – present), and Psychoeducation in Lewiston and Virtual (November – Present). We have coordinated sixteen individual and family counseling appointments with licensed clinicians, also building important referral pathways with Portland Public Schools, Maine Health and Spurwink that we can leverage to sustain and hopefully expand the program.



Events hosted and co-hosted by the Wellness Team have included the following: Walgreens Vaccine Clinic (January in Portland), Transportation Education (May in Lewiston), Early Intervention Psychosis with Maine Health (June in Portland), Free Vision Clinic with Office of Maine Refugee Services (August in Portland), Afghan Community Kayak Excursion with Ripple Effect (August in Portland), Professional Development and Technology Training Series with 4FG (August in Lewiston), and Winter Hats/Gloves Distribution and Northern Light Vaccine Clinic (October at Biddeford Block Party).



Afghan Community Kayak Excursion to Cow Island hosted by Ripple Effect and Ismail Faizy.



Lewiston Police Department Q & A with interpretation by Grace Kalume.

“In short, Gateway Community Services Maine has been a great help in our process of adapting to the USA.”
–Jose Lewiston, ME

Our team’s public representation includes Ismail Faizy’s leadership in Afghan communities in Portland and Lewiston, Violette Zola’s cultural brokering and clinical role at Brunswick Oasis Free Clinic, Grace Kalume’s strong reputation with L/A service providers and employers, Qamer Hussein’s nonprofit networking across Southern Maine, and Ahmed Daher’s civic and religious leadership in the L/A area. The Wellness Team has represented GCSM at the CHW Sustainability Summit (Spokane, April), OPHE Health Equity Conference (Lewiston, July), OMRS State Refugee Advisory Council meetings (Portland, recurring), Maine CHW Summit (Augusta, April), and other events. Ahmed Daher also serves as a CHW Advisor to the MECHW initiative



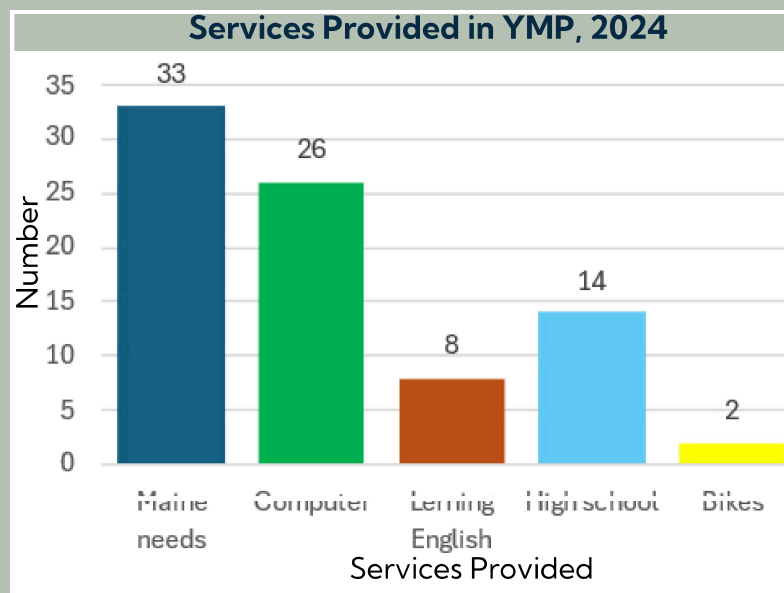
Violette Zola presents Maine’s CHW poster at the CHW Sustainability Summit in Spokane.



One Year Review Leadership Program

Youth Mentoring Program (YMP):

In 2024, YMP recruited 41 young individuals, engaging them in various civic activities, such as a Homebuyer's Education event, election assistance, and career fairs. Regular phone check-ins every three months helped track client progress, with 28 showing up, 8 moving away, and others unresponsive. Many participants, particularly those aged 15-18, are students. Partnerships like Gear Hub, providing free bikes, helped foster community connections. A notable success includes a 24-year-old mentee who, after starting with translation support, is now proficient in English and excited about his computer learning. Additionally, Rahmani received a scholarship to study nursing in Bangor. Overall, participants valued the computers provided for their educational development.



Peer Workforce Navigator:

In 2024, the Peer Workforce Navigator assisted 122 clients, primarily aged 35–45, across Portland (60 clients), Lewiston (50), and Auburn (12). The program helped clients navigate opportunities in various fields, with many speaking French, Portuguese, Lingala, Somali, Swahili, and Arabic. A key success was the "Clean Energy Career Fair," where clients discovered apprenticeship opportunities in construction, plumbing, and electrical fields. Two clients secured spots with the Maine's Building and Construction Trades Union through this initiative.

"One of the great things about partnering with GCSM and attending events like this is the opportunity to reach an untapped skillset—individuals who may be under-resourced or lack access to the support, education, and services that many of us take for granted. It's a wonderful chance to connect with highly skilled, incredibly motivated, and talented people who simply need a bit of exposure. A 'hands-up' moment, if you will. It's a fantastic opportunity to meet people who are eager and excited to contribute to the kind of work we do, which is creating a better, brighter, and more sustainable future for Maine."

Career Fair, CASSY R. [ReVision Energy](#).



CYC AND COC AT BIGELOW



SOLAR ECLIPSE TRIP with CYC/GMRI

CYC and Color of Climate (COC):

These programs foster youth leadership in Maine's communities of color, with COC focusing on empowering Youth of Color and building a network of educators to support frontline communities. Over the past year, we created opportunities for BIPOC youth to engage in climate-focused programs, addressing the lack of such groups in Maine.

Activities included outdoor experiences like data collection with Bigelow Institute of Ocean Sciences, climate-friendly living at a closed-circle farm, and talks from organizations like Garbage to Garden and Maine Public Health. These programs sparked STEM interest, inspired a student-led environmental racism research project, and involved students in citizen science and a live Solar Eclipse viewing.

To support educators, we host monthly Connected Learning Ecosystem (CLE) meetings on cultural mediation, literacy training, and developing a cultural science guide. We also collaborate with organizations like NASA and Gulf of Maine Research Institute through statewide science meetings.

One Year Review

Community Program

The Community Education Program has made significant strides in supporting students and families across multiple initiatives, providing educational services and fostering a sense of community.

Key Achievements:

- After School Tutoring Program: 23 students at South Portland Middle School received academic support, with 7 engaging in the Book Checkout Program. Notably, 2 students ranked in the top 1% for English language growth.
- Summer Program: 19 students participated in the extended summer gap academic support program.
- High School Programs: 18 students attended after-school programs at Deering High School and Portland High School.
- One-on-One Tutoring: 7 students received personalized academic assistance.

In total, the program has assisted 67 students, making a measurable impact on their academic progress.

Language and Literacy Support: The Language and Literacy Program Tutor (LLPT) provided academic support to 21 students, including remote learning options. This initiative improved performance, reduced math anxiety, and fostered positive social interactions.

Youth Homelessness Outreach: The Youth Homelessness Specialist served 223 households, offering essential support such as school enrollment, transportation, healthcare assistance, and advocacy. The program also engaged in community outreach, offering backpacks and school supplies.

"I work closely with [7 students from club]. As you know, each of them has a lot of different factors in their lives. As their teacher, I tend to see a lot of their ups and downs each day. I will say that having time and space to connect with friends and form relationships with adults in a safe environment is always a positive in their lives. I'm especially glad to see that the group of girls you mentioned are regularly attending. Oftentimes, the commitment of a sport or club can be too much for them in their circumstances -- so I'm really happy to see that they've found a space to be together." – Jenniffer, teacher SPMS



Back to School Event

"I want the club to be more times a week, like 2 or 3 days. [Student expressed interest in non-profit job and discussed this with teacher." – Student After School Program

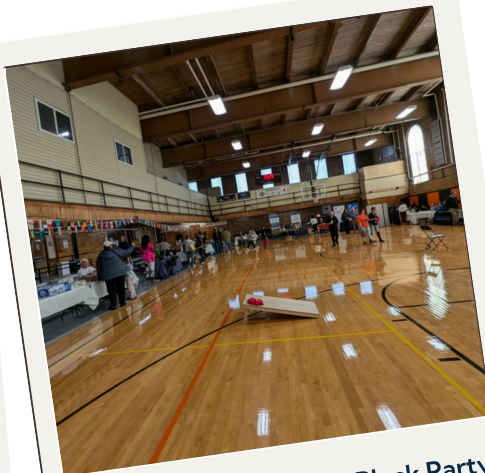


GCSM would like to highlight the large community event we organized in Biddeford at the Community Center on Alfred Street. We had so many great Biddeford organizations gather with community and each other, it was a great opportunity for connection and fun. There was activities like face painting, henna, and meeting local sea creatures. We are so thankful to all the partners and community members that made it out to the Biddeford Community Center.

Community Events and Engagement: The program hosted 53 events, engaging 1,583 community members. These events included cultural gatherings, wellness fairs, and sports activities, fostering connection and support across diverse community groups.



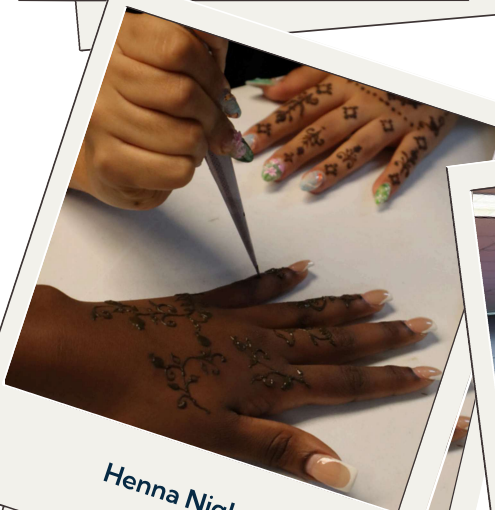
World Cup Watch Party



Biddeford Community Block Party



Community Iftar Dinner



Henna Night



IMENA Karate



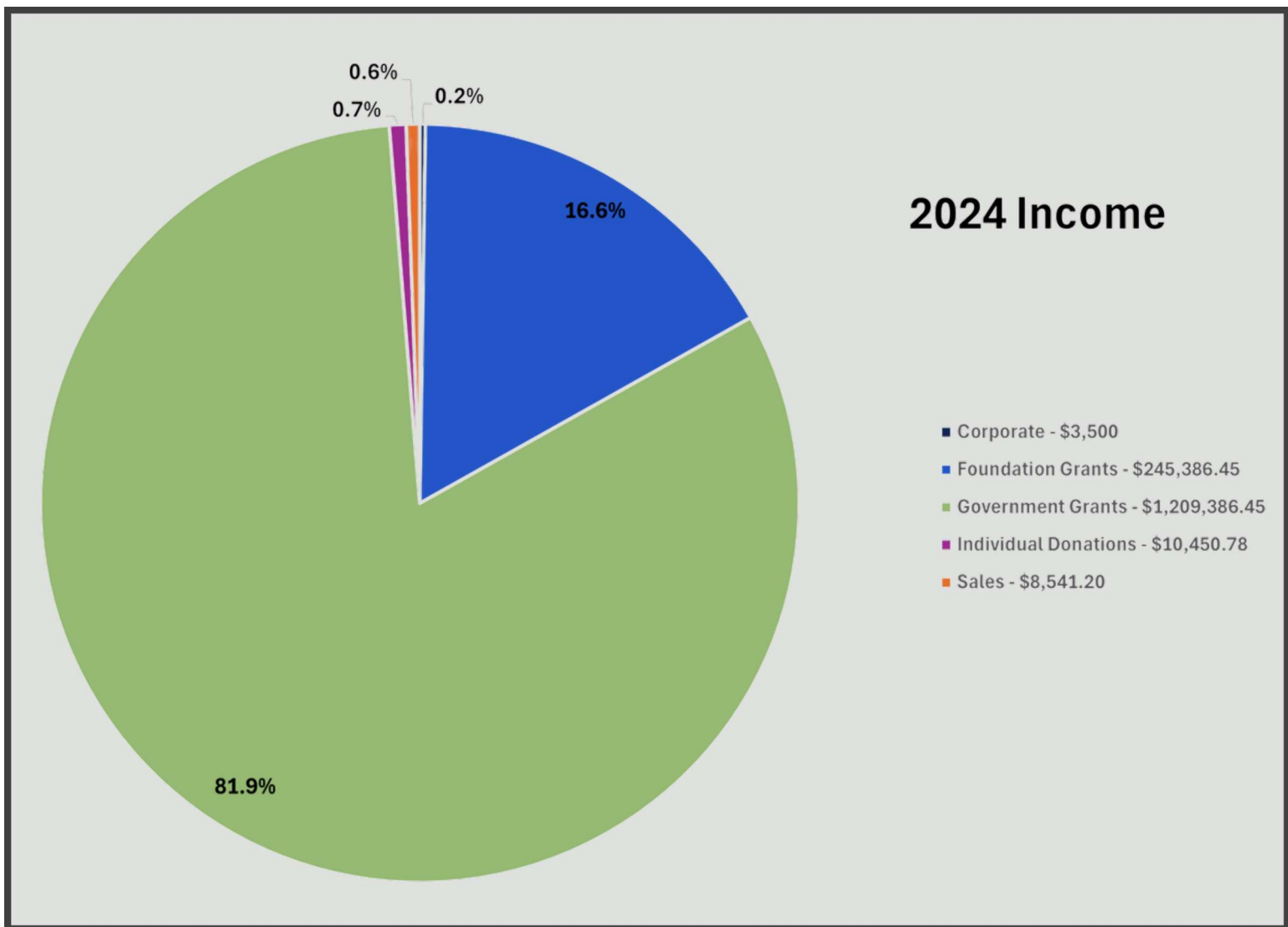
Home Buying Process Event



2024 Financials

Over the past four years, GCSM has benefited significantly from government contracts tied to federal COVID-19 relief funds. These funds enabled us to deliver vital services to address health disparities disproportionately impacting our community. However, with the conclusion of this funding, we face challenges in sustaining our efforts and mitigating harm to the communities we serve. In 2024, government funding accounted for 81.9% of our income, compared to 85% in 2023.

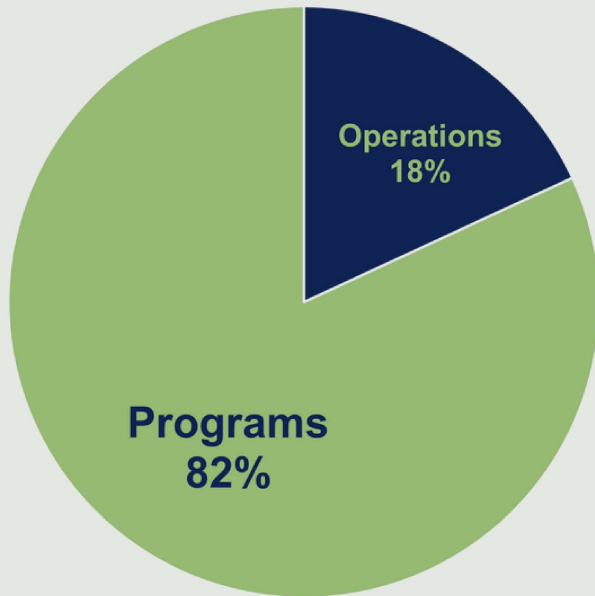
As we move into 2025 with a changing funding environment, we are actively exploring new ways to sustain these programs. These changes will have a significant impact on the communities we serve, and we are committed to adapting to ensure continued support for those who rely on our services.



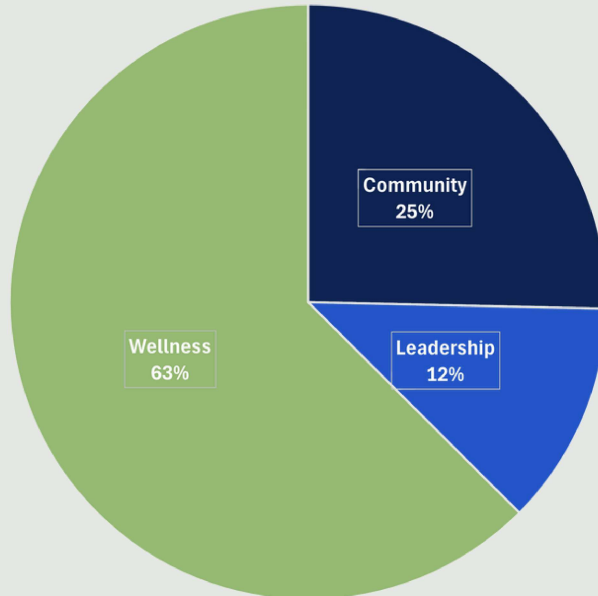


2024 Financials

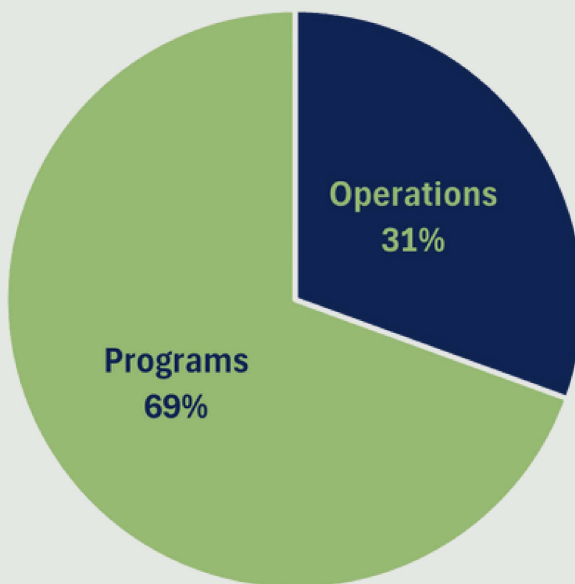
Income per Department



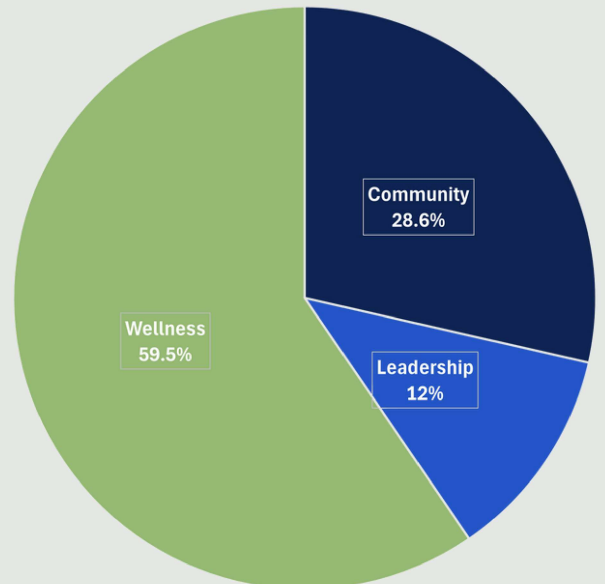
Income per Program



Expenses per Department



Expenses per Program





We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our generous donors, partners, and community members whose unwavering support has made it possible for GCSM to be a home for all. Your contributions are vital to our continued success, and we are deeply appreciative of your commitment to our mission. Stay connected with us!

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