



Fresno  
Economic  
Opportunities  
Commission

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Serving with Purpose

# *Sixty years of* **FRESNO EOC**

For six decades, Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission (Fresno EOC) has stood as a beacon of hope in the heart of California's Central Valley. What began in 1965 as a bold response to a national call for justice has grown into a powerful movement, one rooted in the unwavering yet simple and powerful belief that every person, in every neighborhood, deserves the opportunity to thrive.

From our earliest days, we understood that ending poverty requires more than services. It requires courage. It requires community. And above all, it requires people who believe that change is possible and who are willing to work tirelessly to make it real.

Today, Fresno EOC stands as one of the largest Community Action Agencies in the nation, continuing its mission with pride and purpose. Guided by a dedicated 24-member tripartite Board of Commissioners and driven by over 900 passionate team members, Fresno EOC does more than serve. We uplift individuals and families by developing skills, confidence, and opportunities to achieve long-term stability in our communities. Fresno EOC stands by families during their most challenging times and walks alongside them as they build brighter futures for themselves and generations to come.

Through more than 30 impactful programs, Fresno EOC reaches into the underserved areas of Fresno County, where opportunities have been scarce for far too long. Each year, over 100,000 residents gain access to education, housing, nutrition, economic mobility, and hope. At the heart of every program is a simple yet powerful vision: To Uplift, To Develop, To Achieve a pathway to a better life.

As we celebrate 60 years, we honor the stories that shaped us; the parents who found stability, the young people who discovered their voice, the families who built new beginnings, and the communities that reminded us that progress is always possible when we rise together.

*But our story is far from finished.*

As we reflect on six decades, we recognize that our mission is as essential today as it was in 1965. The challenges facing our communities remain great. Yet our commitment to opportunity and dignity remain greater. The work ahead calls us to dream bigger, reach farther, and continue building a future where every person has the resources, respect and resilience to thrive.

**FOR 60 YEARS, WE HAVE  
SERVED WITH PURPOSE.  
FOR THE NEXT 60,  
WE WILL SERVE WITH  
POSSIBILITY!**



**1965-2025**

# Letter from THE BOARD CHAIR

In 2025, Fresno EOC reached a remarkable milestone, 60 years of service to our community. For six decades, this organization has stood alongside individuals and families across Fresno County, responding to immediate needs while creating pathways to long term stability and opportunity. That legacy is something we are proud to carry forward.

Since joining the Board of Commissioners in 2022, I have had the privilege of seeing the work up close. I have witnessed the dedication of our staff, the strength of our community partners, and the determination of the families we serve. Every day, Fresno EOC meets people where they are and helps them take the next step forward. That commitment is not abstract. It is visible in classrooms, in job training centers, in health clinics, and in homes throughout our county.

The Board takes seriously its responsibility to provide thoughtful leadership, strong oversight, and a clear sense of direction. Our role is to ensure that Fresno EOC remains mission focused, financially sound, and responsive to changing community needs. We understand that stewardship is not just about governance. It is about protecting the trust placed in us by the community.

This year, we continued to broaden access to critical services, strengthen partnerships, and adapt to new challenges. Behind every statistic in this report is a story. A child gaining confidence in school. A parent securing stable employment. A senior accessing the care and support they deserve. These individual successes are the true measure of our impact.

As we reflect on 60 years of service, we do so with gratitude and determination. The work is not finished. Our commitment remains steady: to listen carefully, to lead responsibly, and to ensure Fresno EOC continues to be a dependable source of opportunity and support for generations to come.

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, thank you for your partnership and for being part of this important work.



Robert Pimentel  
Board Chair



# Letter from OUR CEO

Dear Community,

It is an honor to write to you for the first time as your new servant leader. Also, it is a privilege to be able to serve and stand on the shoulders of 60 years of impact, service, and commitment to our community.

My first six months in my role has been vibrant and focused in the following areas: becoming thoroughly familiar with Fresno EOC's- unique history, culture, programs, operations, funding, and quickly establishing a presence in the Central Valley; and probable base of support continuing to fulfill programmatic goals for the year as identified in its current strategic plan. Building and fostering relationships of trust and cooperation throughout our organization, forging partnerships with staff and board that would bring forth an empowering environment, and hiring highly skilled professional staff.

There have been times this year that have been uncertain. We have a history of 60 years of service to lean on when these forces approach us. This has provided us with the strength and the fortitude to continue to strive for excellence during times of uncertainty.

We will be embarking on a new 5-year strategic plan and identifying a new mission statement. Our new strategic plan will be the score card for our success. I am proud to say that we have overcome a budgetary deficit. We finished the 2025 budget year with a surplus. To maintain our financial health, we must continue to focus on stabilization, operational excellence, and promoting sustainable growth.

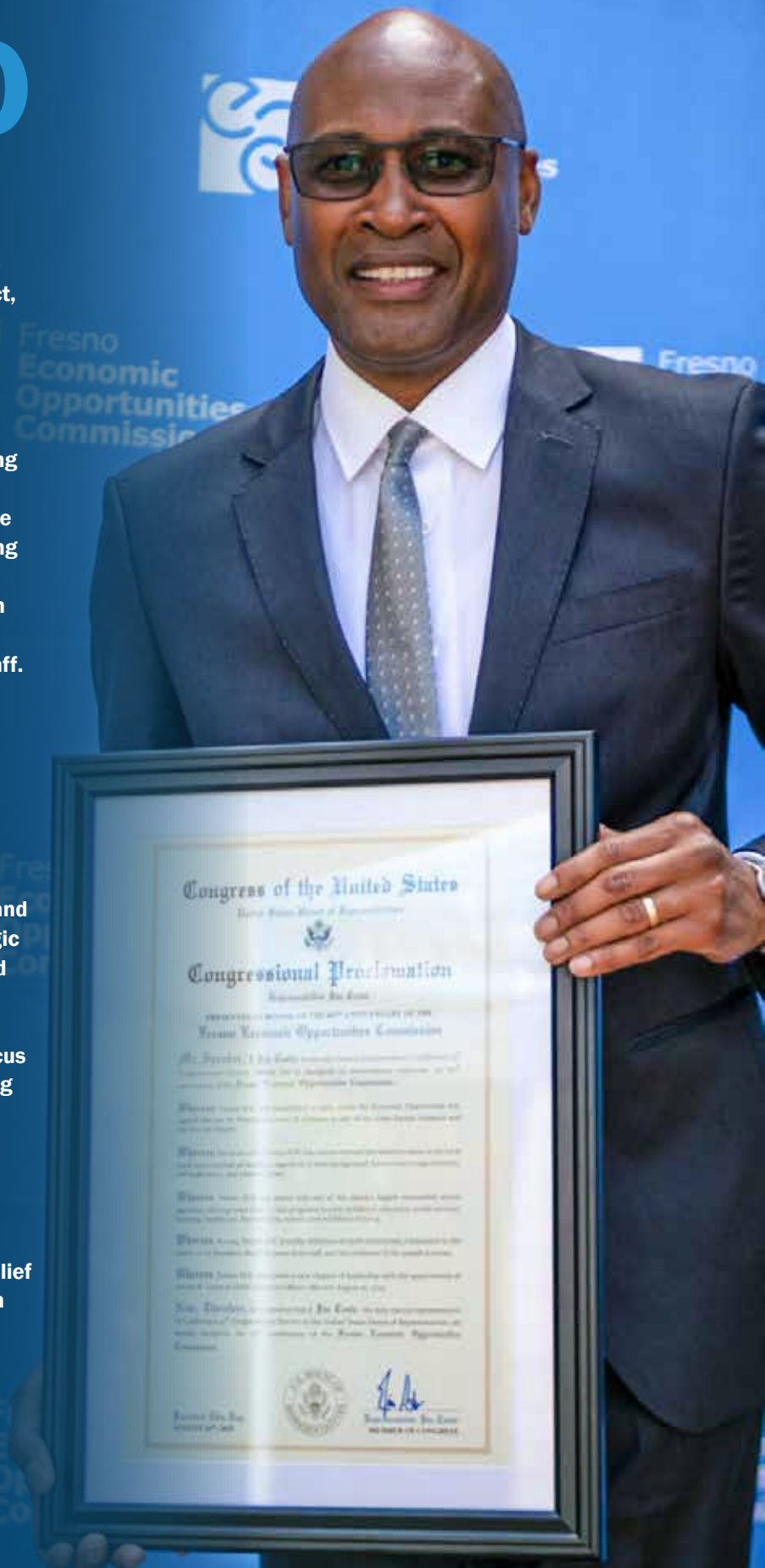
My vision is to build upon our institutional foundation while embracing innovation, collaboration, and sustainability.

Thank you for your trust, your partnership, and your belief in our work. I look forward to what we will accomplish together in the year ahead.

With gratitude,



Steven R. Lewis  
Chief Executive Officer



# Advancing Opportunity: **STRATEGIC PLAN IN ACTION**

Throughout 2025, Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission (Fresno EOC) continued to implement its 2023–2026 Strategic Plan, a bold framework designed to combat poverty and address its root causes. This plan strengthens our internal structure and aligns our agency-wide efforts to ensure that every program contributes to a unified mission of economic opportunity, accessibility, and lasting impact. In 2025, Fresno EOC took important steps to strengthen internal effectiveness and accountability by reevaluating our staffing structure, creating and implementing a comprehensive program evaluation process, and launching customer satisfaction surveys to better understand and respond to the needs of those we serve. These efforts were supported by ongoing reporting and analysis to inform continuous improvement across multiple program areas.

Fresno EOC's Strategic Plan builds upon our legacy as a Community Action Agency, founded through the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 to eliminate poverty by expanding access to education, employment, and dignified living. Our three-tier strategic planning process, beginning with the Community Needs Assessment (CNA), informing the Community Action Plan (CAP), and culminating in the Strategic Plan, ensures that our services are rooted in the real needs of the communities we serve. Each step guides us in identifying measurable goals, assessing progress, and adapting our approach to create meaningful change.

As we move forward, Fresno EOC remains committed to empowering individuals, strengthening families, and transforming communities. Our work is more than a plan; it's a promise to uphold the values of opportunity and justice for all.



Scan the QR Code to view  
the Strategic Plan



# STRATEGIC GOALS

## Targeted Services

Focus resources on individuals and families most affected by poverty, ensuring support reaches those who need it most.

## Community Advocacy

Work alongside residents to bring attention to local challenges and push for changes that reduce poverty.

## Whole-Person Support

Address the many ways poverty impacts individuals by offering services that care for their overall well-being.

## Responsive Programs and Services

Develop programs that adapt to changing community needs, offering both immediate assistance and long-term resources to help people build financial stability.

# Strategic FOCUS AREAS



## Food Insecurity

In Fresno County, nearly 1 in 4 children lack reliable access to enough nutritious food to thrive.



## Housing Stability

Across Fresno County, housing instability affects thousands of families and youth, with many at risk of displacement due to financial hardship and limited housing options.



## Employment Opportunities

In 2025, employment in Fresno County remains strong, yet nearly 18% of residents live in poverty. Median household income is approximately \$71,434.



## Community Safety

Incarceration disrupts families and finances, increases stress, and contributes to higher injury rates in law enforcement encounters. Feelings of neighborhood safety remain low in many communities.



## Health & Wellness

In Fresno County, residents continue to face significant health challenges, including high rates of chronic disease and limited access to care.



## Educational Achievement

Nearly half of Fresno Unified students live in poverty and many schools face limited resources. More than 60% of third graders are below grade level in English and math.



# Table Of CONTENTS

## Food Insecurity

Women, Infants & Children (WIC)	10-11
Food Services	12
Food Distribution	13

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## Housing Stability

Energy Services	14-15
Sanctuary and Support Services	16-17

---

## Employment Opportunities

Local Conservation Corps (LCC)	18-19
Training and Employment	20-21

---

## Community Safety

Advance Peace Fresno	22-23
Sanctuary and Support Services	24-27
Transit Systems	28-29

---

## Health & Wellness

Health Services	30-33
-----------------	-------

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## Educational Achievement

Head Start 0 to 5	34-37
School of Unlimited Learning (SOUL)	38-39
Foster Grandparent Program	40-41

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# Women, Infants & Children (WIC)

Fresno EOC Women, Infants and Children (WIC) provides healthy food, nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and family referrals to resources to more than 27,000 women, children, and families in Fresno County.

## 2025 *impact*



64%

of food benefits redeemed



39,848

participants served



5

sites



34,239

online nutrition lessons completed



\$27,195,607

amount of WIC food benefits issued



\$30,000

farmers market coupons issued

## Breastfeeding SUPPORT

Fresno EOC WIC has 34 lactation specialists who provide support to WIC clients with hands on breastfeeding support and breastfeeding classes. Breastfeeding is healthier for both babies and moms by reducing the risk of many ailments.

266

hands-on breastfeeding participants supported

41%

breastfeeding rate

3,759

breastfeeding lessons in person and over the phone completed

9

breastfeeding virtual meetups with 227 participants completed

1,000

farmers market booklets issued

51%

farmers market coupons redeemed



# Baby SHOWERS

Fresno EOC WIC is in its twelfth year of conducting baby showers. It's a fun and engaging event to provide resources and breastfeeding information to pregnant WIC participants.



17

baby showers celebrated



208

participants attended



## GROWING TOGETHER: 14 YEARS OF SUPPORT THROUGH WIC

Maribel Hernandez has lived in Fresno County for over 20 years and has participated in the WIC program for more than 14 years. She recalls being introduced to WIC when she was a newly pregnant woman filled with questions and doubts. Although excited to learn what she was expecting, she also felt scared about how everything would unfold as a new mother.

With support from the WIC program and the breastfeeding team, she was able to confront her fears. The WIC staff supported her every step of the way. Maribel is truly thankful for the program because, through the benefits she has received over the years, she has been able to provide her family with fresh, seasonal fruits and vegetables. Her children enjoy strawberries, corn, bananas, carrots, green beans, blueberries, cucumbers, and many other healthy foods. Thanks to WIC, she is able to purchase these nutritious foods for her family.

Over time, she has witnessed many positive changes in the program, all for the better. Maribel remains deeply grateful for all the support WIC has provided to her and her family.



# Food Services

Food Services enhances food access by providing healthy, nutritious meals to youth, seniors, and community partners. Through strategic partnerships, it delivers comprehensive meal services that support overall community well-being.

## 2025 *impact*

### *Food Services* HOME DELIVERY

Our Home Delivery service offers a convenient, affordable option for those who need or prefer not to prepare meals daily. Designed to meet diverse community needs, it ensures access to balanced, nutritious meals without the hassle of cooking.



# 636,756

senior meals produced



# 979

homebound seniors served



# 390,278

homebound senior meals served

## HOW A SIMPLE DELIVERY CHANGED EVERYTHING

Larry looks forward to the familiar knock on his door each week. It has become a small but meaningful moment in his routine, one that brings comfort and something to anticipate. Living alone, he had begun to feel the growing challenge of preparing balanced meals for himself. What once felt simple now required more energy than he often had. Some days, the thought of gathering ingredients, cooking, and cleaning up afterward felt overwhelming, and skipping meals seemed like the easier choice.

That began to change when Larry started receiving nutritious meals prepared and delivered by Fresno EOC Food Services. Each delivery comes ready to heat and enjoy, crafted with his well-being in mind. For Larry, the meals provide far more than daily nourishment; they bring structure and reassurance to his life. He no longer has to worry about whether he'll have something healthy to eat. The meals are always there when he needs them, no grocery shopping, no lengthy prep, and no piles of dishes waiting afterward.

He often says the best part is consistency. "I know it's there. I know it's good for me. And I don't have to think about it." That sense of reliability gives him the freedom to focus on the things that matter most, staying active, attending his appointments, and maintaining his independence.

What began as a simple meal delivery has become something much greater for Larry: a source of stability, dignity, and peace of mind. It allows him to remain safely at home, living life on his own terms, with the confidence that he is supported each step of the way.



# Food Distribution

The Food Distribution program is dedicated to combating hunger among low-income families in both rural and inner-city areas. By distributing essential food commodities including fresh produce, bread, beans, rice, pasta, and other nutritious foods we aim to enhance the health and nutritional outcomes of the families we serve.

## 2025 *impact*



22,613

households served



2,775

volunteers



104,225

individuals served



11 sites (Pinedale, Mendota, Parlier, Cantua Creek, Biola, Sanger, Orange Cove, Firebaugh, Fresno, Five Points, Riverdale)



# Energy Services

Fresno EOC Energy Services relieves rising energy costs and improves energy efficiency and safety in the home. Services include utility payment assistance to prevent disconnection or restore service and weatherization measures to improve safety and energy efficiency. Each year, Energy Services assists over 10,000 households, making a significant impact in Fresno County.

## 2025 *impact*

### LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)

LIHEAP helps low-income individuals manage their heating and cooling costs, especially during the peak winter and summer months when these expenses typically increase. Beyond helping with bill payments, the program also offers emergency crisis intervention and educates participants on energy conservation to further support their needs.

 **4,601**  **12,782**  
households served people served

 **\$4,470,895**  
benefits disbursed

*Priority*  
**POPULATION**

**2,437** **687**  
elderly served rural households served

**2,639**  
children served

**2,501**  
people with disabilities served

**2,090**  
rural people served

### LIHEAP *Emergency*

 **3,522**  
households that received assistance with a disconnection notice

 **\$274**  
average benefit amount

 **\$972**  
household's average monthly energy cost



# WEATHERIZATION

Weatherization focuses on installing energy conservation measures designed to reduce energy costs, boost energy efficiency, and promote health and safety for low-income families. This initiative prioritizes support for older people, people with disabilities, and families with young children, ensuring that these vulnerable groups benefit from improved living conditions and reduced energy expenses.



46

outreach events attended



2,500

individuals reached



1,315

people served



7,443

measures installed



\$7,443

in services and repairs



253

households served



108

households served with emergency heating/cooling

## ENERGY ASSISTANCE, PEACE OF MIND

Before connecting with Fresno EOC Energy Services, Florita Fradue Laney often struggled to keep up with her energy bills. Living on limited resources, even what some might consider a small bill could create significant financial stress. During the winter months, she avoided using her heater entirely because she could not afford the added cost. A bill of \$400 to \$500 could represent two to three months of electricity for her, leaving little room in her budget for anything beyond basic necessities.

Florita was referred through community resources to Fresno EOC Energy Services program, where she received assistance with her utility costs. Through the program, a payment was made directly to Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) on her behalf, providing immediate financial relief.

The assistance gave Florita the chance to breathe financially, offering two to three months of relief from her energy bill. With that support, she was finally able to relax and even set aside a small amount of money for herself, something she described as a rare luxury.

Florita expressed deep gratitude for the help she received and for the opportunity to meet the people who supported her. She shared that the experience meant a great deal to her and thanked the team not only for herself, but for others, especially seniors and individuals living on fixed incomes, who rely on programs like this to get through difficult times.



# Sanctuary & Support Services



For nearly 50 years, Fresno EOC Sanctuary and Support Services has provided transformative housing solutions, from emergency to permanent options. Using a Housing-First approach, we quickly secure safe shelter for individuals, complemented by round-the-clock onsite health and social support services.

## 2025 *impact*

### SANCTUARY *Homeless Services*

#### Outreach and Navigation Services



individuals served



people who obtained emergency shelter



people who obtained supportive services, such as food, basic needs, and referrals to community partners

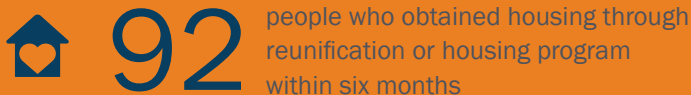
#### Bridge Housing



number of beds



individuals served



people who obtained housing through reunification or housing program within six months

#### Emergency Shelter



individuals served



people who obtained housing through reunification or housing program

#### Permanent Housing



individuals served



individuals who obtained/maintained housing within 12 months



people who obtained/maintained income



## SAFE PLACE

Safe Place is a national youth outreach and prevention program for young people up to 25 years of age in Fresno County needing immediate help and safety. As a collaborative community prevention initiative, Safe Place designates businesses and organizations as Safe Place locations, making help readily available to youth in communities across the country. In Fresno County, Fresno EOC Sanctuary and Support Services program administers the Safe Place locations at various sites throughout Fresno County including the following Fresno EOC sites: Sanctuary Transitional Shelter, WIC, and Health and Dental Services. There are also mobile Safe Place sites through Fresno Area Express (FAX), City of Clovis Transit and Fresno EOC's Food Express Bus.

## CANDY CANE XPRESS

Candy Cane Xpress is an annual festive tradition that has become a beacon of hope in the community. A festive caravan delivered holiday cheer directly to the doorsteps of 25 low-income families, identified in collaboration with a neighborhood school. The caravan brought trees, gifts, personalized stockings, and gift cards, continuing a legacy that has impacted over 3,119 children since its inception in 1994. The enduring success of "Candy Cane Xpress" relies on generous contributions from partners like Asia Supermarket, Belmont Car Wash, Central Valley Community Bank, POM Wonderful, Target, Trader Joe's, Fresno Chaffee Zoo, Texas Roadhouse, Jolley Family, and private donors. Additionally in 2025, the program partnered with Moon Salon Studio and Accent Care to initiate Candy Cane Wishes, a giving tree that "adopted" 13 families (for a total of 46 children).



adults served



children served



families served

## A PATH TOWARD STABILITY

When Brittanie entered the Sanctuary Youth Bridge Housing Program in June 2025, she was facing one of the most difficult moments of her life. Referred by the Marjaree Mason Center, Brittanie arrived eight months pregnant and navigating significant housing and stability challenges while trying to care for her family.

With the support of the program and a dedicated case manager, Brittanie began working step by step toward rebuilding stability. Together, they focused on the goals outlined in her case plan. Over the next several months, Brittanie made meaningful progress. She secured vital identification documents for herself and her children, found part-time employment to increase her income, and enrolled her children in childcare. She also connected with mental health services and parenting classes, strengthening the foundation for her family's well-being.

At the time Brittanie entered the program, her two older children had been placed with a family member through county involvement. Through consistent participation and determination, she demonstrated her commitment to her family. As a result of her progress, Brittanie was granted unsupervised visitation and is now on track for reunification with her children in the coming months.

While working to stabilize her family, Brittanie also took important steps toward her future. She enrolled at Fresno City College to pursue an Associate's degree, showing her determination to build long-term self-sufficiency.

In December 2025, Brittanie reached a major milestone. After being matched with a TIBRA housing voucher, she and her family moved into permanent housing at Sierra Crossing on December 12. To help ease the transition, the program provided essential household supplies to ensure their new home was safe and comfortable.



# Local Conservation Corps (LCC)

Local Conservation Corps (LCC) provides young adults (ages 18-26) with paid job training and educational opportunities.

## 2025 *impact*

### Corpsmembers



**175**

corpsmembers enrolled



**13**

corpsmembers who earned college credit while enrolled



**34**

corpsmembers who completed the program



**19**

corpsmembers who earned a high school diploma

### Conservation, Recreation and Environmental

**10.6**

acres of hazardous fuel reduction



### Recycling

The LCC recycled and prevented the following materials from being disposed of in landfills.



**78 TONS**

CRV bottles and cans



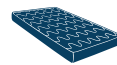
**18,052**

individual used tires (Roadside pick ups and amnesty events)



**12 TONS**

e-waste





**1,504**

recycled used mattresses (82,720 lbs), diverted from the waste stream.




## Education and Training


 **94** young adults earned credits toward a high school diploma


 **13** individuals ages 18-29 earned college credits

 **3** students were placed in healthcare related jobs through our YouthBuild USA Department of Labor Grant

## Supportive Services

 **47** corpsmembers experiencing food insecurity accessed the LCC onsite Food Pantry

 **48** corpsmembers experiencing stable housing challenges accessed the onsite LCC hygiene closet

 **37** corpsmembers experiencing transportation challenges accessed transportation resources to help ensure consistent attendance and program participation

## TURNING HARD WORK INTO OPPORTUNITY

When Jacob Echevarria enrolled in the Fresno Local Conservation Corps' recycling program in September 2024, he was searching for a fresh start. At the time, he did not have a high school diploma or a valid driver's license, but he was determined to move forward and create new opportunities for himself.

With support from the corps, Jacob enrolled in the YouthBuild Charter School of California while gaining valuable hands-on experience through the program. During his time with the corps, he earned certifications in Forklift Operation, First Aid/CPR, and Basic Life Support (BLS). He also completed a two-week Working On Fire Forestry Training program, gaining certifications in wildland fire behavior, chainsaw operations, defensible space concepts, and chipper safety.

In June 2025, Jacob proudly earned his high school diploma, an important milestone in his journey. Motivated to continue building his future, he enrolled in the Fresno Local Conservation Corps YouthBuild construction training program and the Sterile Processing Technician (SPT) training program.

After completing 12 weeks of classroom instruction, Jacob went on to complete a 400-hour paid internship at Valley Children's Hospital. His dedication and hard work led to a full-time opportunity, and he is now employed at a local orthopedic surgery center.

Jacob's journey reflects the power of opportunity, education, and perseverance, and how the Fresno Local Conservation Corps helps young people build the skills and confidence needed for a brighter future.



# Training And Employment

To deliver Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) services within America’s Job Centers of California, preparing young adults ages 14-24 for college, the military, and/or the workforce.

## 2025 *impact*

### WORKFORCE CONNECTION YOUNG ADULT PROGRAM

The Workforce Connection Young Adult Program guides young adults ages 14-24 along the pathway to education, training, personal development, and ultimately a rewarding career.



**419**

young adults served



**107**

in school young adults ages 14-21 served



**\$8,970**

Median wage per participant



**311**

out of school young adults ages 16-24 served



**213**

placements in college or workforce



**134**

unemployed youth who obtained employment



# VALLEY APPRENTICESHIP CONNECTIONS (VAC)

Valley Apprenticeship Connections (VAC) supports the hiring needs of Central Valley's construction contractors. Students are immersed in an intense 12-week training program to prepare them for the workforce.



125

adults graduated



74

adults employed



723

certifications earned



14

adults were indentured to a trades union



## A SECOND CHANCE THAT SPARKED A NEW FUTURE

After several years, Peter returned to visit the VAC classroom where part of his transformation first began. His visit was more than a reunion; it was a powerful reminder to current students of how determination, support, and a willingness to change can open the door to a new future.

Peter shared his story with VAC students. After serving 12 years in prison, he made the life-changing decision to turn things around. Knowing he needed structure, guidance, and a clear path forward, he enrolled in the VAC Program with encouragement from his parole officer.

One of the most meaningful parts of his journey was completing the 12-week Thinking for a Change course. For Peter, the program did more than teach skills; it reshaped his mindset. It helped him view situations differently, make better decisions, and take responsibility for his future. That shift in thinking became the foundation for everything that followed.

Peter started at the ground level as a laborer. Through dedication and consistent hard work, he advanced to foreman and eventually became an independent contractor working with PG&E. He reminded students that success didn't happen overnight; it took five to six years of persistence and focus.

During his visit, Peter shared something he normally keeps private: last year, he earned more than \$250,000. He shared this not to boast, but to show students what is possible when someone commits to change and stays focused on their goals.

Most importantly, Peter shared that his motivation has never been about money, but about making his family proud, becoming someone he could respect, and proving that the past does not define the future, showing students that with support, determination, and belief in themselves, a new path forward is always possible.



# Advance Peace Fresno

Advance Peace Fresno reimagines public safety with healing-centered strategies that transform the lives of those impacted by gun violence. These strategies break the cycle of violence by placing young men into mentorship programs that instill conflict resolution skills and offer peer support. The Advance Peace Fresno team are a steadfast presence in the community, whether they are guiding program Fellows to make healthy decisions or acting as mediators in gun-related shootings.

## 2025 *impact*



# 264

total conflicts mediated



# 3,396.5

total conflict response hours



# 105

Total referrals to community resources



# 14,651

total street outreach



# 3,719

total street outreach hours



# 113

total referrals hours



# 55

fellow engagements



# 46.5

fellow engagement hours



# 23

total fellows in the program

## ADVANCE PEACE FRESNO: BREAKING THE CYCLE OF GUN VIOLENCE

Advance Peace Fresno, a program of Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission (Fresno EOC), continued to make a significant impact in 2025 by addressing gun violence through a public health and mentorship-based approach. Focused on the highest-risk individuals, the program provides mentorship, counseling, and intervention to prevent retaliatory violence and break the cycle before it escalates.

In April 2025, federal funding for Community Violence Intervention Programs was terminated, creating uncertainty for programs like Advance Peace. Despite this challenge, Fresno saw a notable decline in violence, with homicides dropping to 22 and gang-related homicides decreasing to 9, the lowest levels since 1973.

Local law enforcement and elected officials have credited the program's approach with helping improve community safety. Continued investment in this work remains critical to sustaining progress and building safer neighborhoods.

# LIFEMAP MILESTONES: ADVANCE PEACE AND FELLOWS COLLABORATE TO EMPOWER HEALING AND ACHIEVEMENT

Advance Peace teams up with Fellows to create short-term and long-term goals in their journey, called LifeMAP Milestones. In recognition of Fellow's achievements in accomplishing their goals, Fellows earn LifeMAP milestone allowances to support their journey towards healing.



**\$73,158**

LifeMAP stipends disbursed



**10**

fellows who received anger management



**1,153**

total outreach Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)



**\$31,999**

in support of basic needs

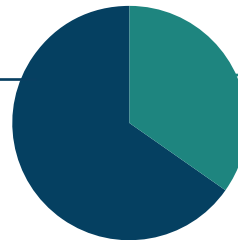


**\$4,554**

fellow transformative travel

## Fellow POPULATION

15  
Hispanic or Latino



8  
Black/African American

## FROM CONFLICT TO PROMISE: JERMAIN'S PATH TO TRANSFORMATION

Jermain spent much of his early life surrounded by gun violence, a cycle that shaped his decisions and limited his sense of possibility. That began to change when he entered the Advance Peace program, where staff describe his journey as nothing short of a “complete example of change.”

Through the program, Jermain worked closely with Dr. Tucker to confront deep-rooted trauma and build healthier ways of responding to conflict. He completed anger-management coursework and developed the soft skills he needed to pursue steady employment, milestones that marked a turning point in his personal stability.

A field coordinator with Advance Peace guided him through creating a “LifeMap,” a long-term plan that helped him set goals and stay focused as he rebuilt his life. One of those goals was earning his GED, an achievement he reached through persistence and support.

Now, Jermain is continuing to push forward. He is enrolled in the VAC program and on track to earn eight professional certifications, a step that places him firmly on a path toward economic independence and long-term stability. His progress reflects not only his own determination but the power of focused mentorship and community-based intervention.



# Sanctuary & Support Services



2025 *impact*

## CENTRAL VALLEY AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING (CVAHT)

Central Valley Against Human Trafficking (CVAHT) empowers survivors of human trafficking by connecting them to resources they need to begin the healing process. We help survivors of all communities, ages, and nationalities—designing a personalized action plan to address their direct needs. Through our work and advocacy, CVAHT is building a rapid response network, expanding community resources, and sharing new understandings of how to best support survivors of human trafficking.



150

primary survivors served



63

secondary survivors served



213

human trafficking survivors served



3,281

instances of case management



19

individuals trained in anti-human trafficking / 40-hour caseworker training



60

instances of crisis hotline



528

instances of crisis counseling



1,644

shelter services provided



# Freedom COALITION

Fresno EOC CVAHT founded and chairs the Central Valley Freedom Coalition, a multi-disciplinary network of over 1,500 contacts, including law enforcement, victim advocate groups, district attorneys, the judicial system, faith-based groups, medical providers, and social services organizations.



# 1,200-1,500

individuals connected to coalition



## A PATH TOWARD STABILITY AND HOPE

A young person was referred to the Central Valley Against Human Trafficking (CVAHT) program by a defense attorney while facing trial for a criminal offense. Recognizing signs of vulnerability and potential human trafficking dynamics, a CVAHT advocate immediately began providing trauma-informed support. The advocate accompanied the youth to court, offering emotional support, reinforcing their legal rights, and helping the attorney better understand the complex impact of trafficking on system-involved youth.

After the youth was found guilty, their biological parents abandoned them in the courtroom, leading to entry into the foster care system. Throughout this difficult transition, the advocate maintained consistent communication with probation, child welfare, school staff, and foster care agencies to ensure coordinated care and reduce further disruption.

When the youth later faced placement instability, including a 14-day notice and a return to juvenile hall, the advocate worked diligently to secure a new foster family agency placement that prioritized stability and continuity of education. A key focus was protecting the youth's right to remain in their school of origin. Through coordination with school officials and transportation support, the student was able to maintain enrollment and academic progress.

Once stabilized in a new placement, the youth was connected to behavioral health services and a workforce development program, while also receiving support to open a bank account and build financial independence. With sustained advocacy and coordinated support, the youth exceeded expectations, graduating high school early and enrolling in community college to continue pursuing their educational and career goals.

\*To ensure the security of the clients, stock photos have been used to not reveal their true identity. These stories are based on real-life events.



# Sanctuary & Support Services



## LGBTQ+ RESOURCE CENTER

LGBTQ+ RESOURCE CENTER provides a welcoming place for individuals to access trusted guidance on services such as STI screenings, supportive care, and housing assistance. Program staff play a key role in reaching underserved communities by offering meaningful connections and workshops that address important health challenges. Through December 2025, the Resource Center led efforts to expand access to care and create pathways to better health.



## *Soup for* **MY FAMILY**

In 2025, Soup for My Family grew from a small, responsive gathering into a consistent and deeply valued community program. Held monthly from January through September at the Fresno EOC LGBTQ+ Resource Center, the events provided a safe and welcoming space for connection, healing, and shared meals. Attendance steadily increased throughout the year, reaching a peak of 105 participants in May 2025. Supported by partnerships with Gender Alchemy, Casa Colores, BlaQueer Fresno, and United Way of Fresno and Madera Counties, the program ensured free, accessible meals while fostering a strong sense of belonging during a time when many community members continued to seek support and reassurance.



# 2025 *impact*



217

participants who visited the drop-in center



114

people who attended peer support groups, gaining a safe space



174

people who obtained case management



118

people who obtained social & emotional support through mental health services

## THE POWER OF AFFIRMING SUPPORT

When “Adam” first walked into the LGBTQ+ Resource Center in 2023, he was overwhelmed. A transgender man in his early 20s, Adam had recently been forced to leave his father’s home and was struggling to find safe housing and people he could trust. The instability was beginning to affect his mental health, and he wasn’t sure where to turn.

With support from a Community Outreach Educator, Adam received help enrolling in primary care and gender-affirming services. He was guided through the process of updating his legal name and gender marker documents and received court navigation support while filing his paperwork. Adam also connected with peer groups like Gender Alchemy, where he found community and understanding among others with similar experiences.

Along the way, Adam received practical support such as bus passes for medical appointments, affirming clothing, and connections to LGBTQ+-supportive housing. With consistent encouragement and guidance, he began rebuilding stability in his life.

Today, Adam is housed and attending school. Before the Center closed in December, he also volunteered at the front desk, welcoming new visitors and offering the same reassurance he once needed. His journey reflects the power of compassionate, culturally responsive support and the importance of meeting people where they are with dignity and care.

\*To ensure the security of the clients, stock photos have been used to not reveal their true identity. These stories are based on real-life events.



# Transit Systems

Transit Systems operates daily to oversee critical transportation services for clients throughout Fresno County. Its broad range of services includes transporting students to and from school, after-school programs, and activities, as well as providing specialized transportation for individuals with disabilities. For these clients, Transit Systems provides door-to-door service, safely transporting individuals from their homes to day programs and returning them home with the highest level of care and attention. The division manages a fleet of 127 vehicles to support these operations.

## 2025 *impact*



2,050

clients transported



910,033

total miles driven



183,212

rides provided



43

routes (within Madera & Fresno County)



5,193

maintenance hours



92%

on time



# Services TO STATE-FUNDED VEHICLES

Transit Systems is a certified State of California-approved garage, authorized to perform inspections, maintenance, and repairs on publicly funded and state-owned vehicles in compliance with strict regulatory standards. The division provides full maintenance and repair services for all CalVets home vehicles, as well as the entire fleet of The ARC. This designation reflects a high level of operational oversight, technical capability, and accountability, ensuring all vehicles are maintained to the highest standards of safety, reliability, and cost efficiency across multiple partner fleets.



## THE ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE AND RELIEF

Every morning in Reedley, Ann and her son Alan wait for the Fresno EOC Transit Systems bus to arrive. Alan eagerly watches for the familiar bus that takes him to the ARC program, a place that has quickly become one of his favorite parts of the day. When the bus pulls up, he heads to the door with excitement, pausing for a special goodbye ritual—holding Ann’s hands and giving an enthusiastic wave before climbing aboard.

Alan greets the driver with a smile as he settles into his seat, ready for the day ahead. The ride has become part of a comforting routine, one that helps him feel connected and confident as he travels to a program where he can learn, socialize, and participate in activities he enjoys.

For Alan, the ride represents independence and connection to a program that brings him joy and a sense of belonging. For Ann, it brings something just as meaningful: peace of mind. Knowing Alan has safe, reliable transportation allows her to take a breath in the middle of a busy day. While he is in his program, Ann can run errands, rest, and take care of responsibilities that can be difficult to manage while providing constant care.

Fresno EOC Transit Systems offers more than transportation; it offers support for families navigating daily challenges. By helping clients reach essential community programs, the service creates opportunities for independence, engagement, and growth.

For families like Ann and Alan’s, each ride represents more than a trip across town. It is a moment of trust, connection, and support that helps make everyday life a little easier and a little brighter.



# Health Services

## 2025 impact

### COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

Community Health Center provides education, counseling, and treatment services to adults and teens of reproductive age at risk for unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STI). We coordinated over 300 transportation appointments to teens from their school site to our clinic. We distributed 1,082 rapid STI test kits, each capable of screening for HIV, gonorrhea, and syphilis, resulting in a total of 2,640 STI tests administered across the LGBTQ+ Resource Center and local community colleges.



# 1,057

families who received reproductive health services



# 69

total outreach events



# 388

total family cases managed



# 289

teens transported



# 316

individual cases managed



# 1,082

distributed rapid STI test kits



# 158

adult referrals



# 126

development screenings for children 0 to 5



# 122

child development referrals

## Dental Health & SCHOOL BASED SEALANT PROGRAM

Dental and Oral Health services are provided to low-income families in Fresno County during in-school sessions and community outreach events. We provided education, screenings, linkages to quality dental homes, and preventative services such as fluoride varnish to children at 37 school and community events.



# 778

clients who received fluoride varnish



# 111

clients who received sealants



# 2,345

children served



# ADOLESCENT HEALTH EDUCATION *Programs*

Youth across Fresno County benefit from health education and case management services offered through Fresno EOC Health Services. Programs cover vital topics like reproductive health, clinical referrals, communication skills, healthy relationships, self-sufficiency, and human trafficking awareness. Services are provided to 7th and 9th grade students in Fresno Unified School District, 11th and 12th graders in rural areas, youth in after-school programs such as the Boys & Girls Clubs and Juvenile Justice Center, as well as pregnant and parenting youth ages 13 to 21.



106

family cases managed



10,214

youth served



10,214

youth received comprehensive sex education



## BUILDING STABILITY AND STRENGTH THROUGH SUPPORT

Over the past ten months, Ms. Bell has shown remarkable resilience and growth as she works to build a stable future for herself and her family. When she first connected with AFLP, she had just given birth and was living in a shelter, moving between multiple locations. Despite these challenges, she consistently approached each meeting with a smile and determination.

Through AFLP's positive youth development support, Ms. Bell set goals and strengthened relationships with friends and family. Her main goal—securing permanent housing - was achieved, and she has maintained stability for nearly a year. She also learned to access Fresno EOC resources, such as WIC, Sanctuary, and Food Distribution, helping both her family and friends.

Ms. Bell recently gained custody of her sibling and has become an important source of guidance and encouragement, motivating him to focus on school and his future. Initially, she had difficulty consistently engaging in services, but over time, she recognized the reliability and care provided through the program.

"I don't have family that I can call for help, so knowing I can reach out for myself or others is great," she shared. "I appreciate all the materials like diapers, wipes, books, and that you visit my home and connect in person."

Ms. Bell's journey reflects the lasting impact of consistent guidance and support, showing why AFLP has remained a trusted program for young families for over 20 years.

# CLINIC Day

In 2025, Health Services continued in-person outreach with a standout Clinic Day event, bringing together resources from across the valley. The day featured free food, giveaways, and essential health resources, attracting over 200 community members. This event effectively spread awareness about the various services offered by Fresno EOC. Building on this success, Health Services expanded its outreach efforts throughout the year, further connecting with local residents and ensuring that even more individuals were aware of and had access to the critical resources available.



15  
vendors



70  
families



139  
individuals



# TOBACCO EDUCATION Program

This program aims to improve health and wellness by educating people about the hazards of secondhand and thirdhand smoke. It promotes smoke-free surroundings in public areas, multi-unit housing, and events. We have collaborated with county and state agencies to increase awareness of the health risks linked with smoke exposure, which has resulted in significant public health achievements.

Our approach involves educational presentations, smoke-free policy enforcement, and anti-smoking support to foster healthier living spaces and wellness in Fresno County communities.



424  
community events



# Sexually Transmitted INFECTION (STI) TESTING

In 2025, Health Services continued its commitment to combating rising STI cases in Fresno County by expanding the free rapid STI testing program. The initiative remained focused on addressing the high rates of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis, particularly among 15 to 29-year-olds. By offering convenient, no-cost testing and immediate treatment for positive results, the program reached even more individuals, promoting regular testing and enhancing public awareness of sexual health. This expansion helped ensure that more community members had access to essential care, contributing to the ongoing effort to reduce STI transmission rates in the region.



# 305

individual rapid  
STI tests



# 1,082

total STI tests  
administered

# California Personal RESPONSIBILITY EDUCATION PROGRAM (CA PREP)

The California Personal Responsibility Education Program (CA PREP) offers free, evidence-based classes designed to help prevent unintended pregnancies, reduce teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infection rates, and promote overall sexual health and well-being.



# 340

youth received  
comprehensive sex  
education



# Head Start 0 to 5

Head Start 0 to 5 provides a range of services to support child development and strengthen families, offering valuable assistance and resources to pregnant women, families with infants and toddlers (ages 0-3), and preschool-aged children (ages 3-5).


Head Start focuses on providing tailored educational, emotional, social, health, and nutritional services, nurturing children’s growth and preparing them for academic success while supporting the overall well-being of families.

## 2024 - 2025 *impact*

 **2,381**  
children and families served

 **647**  
children who transitioned to kindergarten

 **13,795**  
home visits

 **44**  
sites (36 HS center based, 5 EHS center based locations & 3 home based satellite offices)

 **2,579**  
volunteers (parents and community members volunteering in the classroom)

 **376,897**  
volunteer hours

## *Volunteers* **BOOST SUCCESS**

Head Start requires a 20% match from non-federal sources, known as in-kind contributions, which can include volunteer services, resources, and other donations. These contributions are assigned a monetary value and reported quarterly. In 2025 Head Start surpassed the matching requirement, bringing in \$12,446,558 in-kind contributions.



# \$12,446,558

in-kind contributions



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## Success

Head Start 0 to 5 successfully organized key community events to expand its outreach and staffing. In addition, the program hosted a well-publicized job fair to recruit early childhood education professionals. This event included on-the-spot interviews, offering immediate opportunities to join the team. This event highlighted Head Start's commitment to innovative new ways to reach the community and ensure efficient enrollment and recruitment.



 **61** community events

## ORDINARY DAD DOING EXTRAORDINARY THINGS

Aldo Alvarado Rebolledo considered himself “just a normal, regular dad with a unique perspective” when he began searching for opportunities to set his children up for future success. When Aldo discovered Head Start 0 to 5, he made the decision to enroll his three-year-old daughter in the program, not realizing just how many amazing ways that decision would change the life of him and his family.

After witnessing the incredible and positive impact the program had on his daughter, Aldo began attending Local Parent Meetings and County-Wide Policy Council (CWPC) meetings as a way to become more involved in the success and growth of the program. It was there that Aldo's story truly began.

Through his participation in community meetings, Aldo was encouraged by staff to step into a volunteer role with Head Start. In that role, he developed leadership and other critical skills that helped guide his own path toward growth and success.

Since then, Aldo has continued to hone and strengthen those skills. He returned to school and graduated, advocated for Head Start in Sacramento, and presented at an Annual Father Conference. Today, Aldo serves as a Fresno EOC Commissioner, acting as a voice for parents of Head Start 0 to 5 families and playing a critical role in supporting decision-making processes that guide how the program utilizes its funding. “Head Start 0 to 5 has been a positive external force encouraging growth and has provided a role that empowered me as a father,” says Aldo. He proudly shares that he is just one example of the many important roles fathers fill in the home and in the community.

Aldo may describe himself as an ordinary dad, but his journey tells a far more powerful story. When parents are encouraged, supported, and invited to lead, extraordinary things happen. Those extraordinary outcomes strengthen not just one family, but an entire community.



# CHILD AND HEALTH *Services*


 **2,111**  
number of children with health insurance

 **1,869**  
number of children with accessible health care

 **2,138**  
number of children who have received all immunizations

## *Oral* HEALTH

 **1,911**  
number of children with accessible oral care

 **1,576**  
number of children who received oral health preventive care

 **1,719**  
number of children who have completed a professional oral examination



# DISABILITIES *Services*

 **41**  
number of children referred for an evaluation to determine eligibility

 **224**  
number of children who had an Individualized Education Program (IEP)



# FAMILY *Services*



453

number of families that received emergency/crisis intervention (e.g., meeting immediate needs for food, clothing, or shelter)



94

number of families that received housing assistance (e.g., subsidies, utilities, repairs)



101

number of families that received asset building services (e.g., financial education, debt counseling)



94

number of families that received mental health services



52

number of families that received substance misuse prevention and treatment



139

number of families that received English as a Second Language (ESL) training



183

number of families that received assistance in enrolling into an education or job training program



560

number of families that received research-based parenting curriculum



457

number of families that received involvement in discussing their child's screening and assessment results and their child's progress



202

number of families that received education on health and developmental consequences of tobacco product use



606

number of families that received education on preventive medical and oral health



90

number of families that received education on postpartum care (e.g., breastfeeding support)



563

number of families that received education on nutrition



181

number of families that received education on relationship/marriage



# School of Unlimited Learning (SOUL)

The School of Unlimited Learning (SOUL), chartered in 1998 by Fresno Unified, is Fresno County’s longest-running charter school. SOUL is dedicated to providing a comprehensive and fully accredited educational experience to the youth of Fresno, offering an exceptional alternative for students seeking a smaller, more personalized learning environment compared to traditional large high schools.

SOUL caters to a multitude of learning needs with both classroom-based and independent study options. Students attending classroom-based sessions are required to be on campus daily, while those in independent study attend on-site sessions for at least 1.5 hours weekly, in addition to their remote curriculum, with the flexibility to come in more often as needed. SOUL enriches its academic offerings with elective classes available to all students, enhancing their educational experience.

A key component of SOUL’s approach is the case management assistance provided to all students, helping them overcome previous educational obstacles. This support extends beyond academics, as SOUL is committed to serving the entire family by leveraging Fresno EOC’s wide array of resources, including Energy Services, Sanctuary & Support Services, Health Services, Food & Nutrition Programs, Training & Employment Services, and Head Start 0 to 5.

## 2025 *impact*



189

total enrollments



64

total graduated



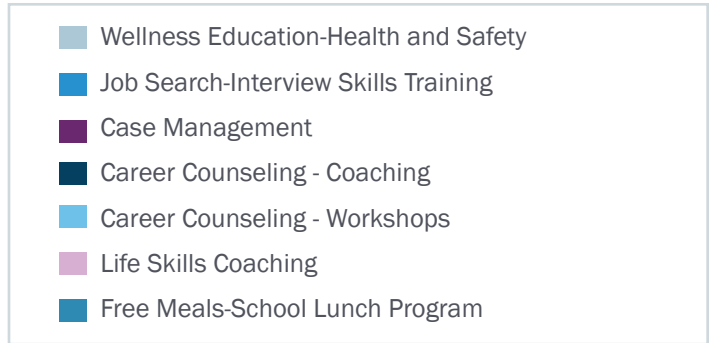
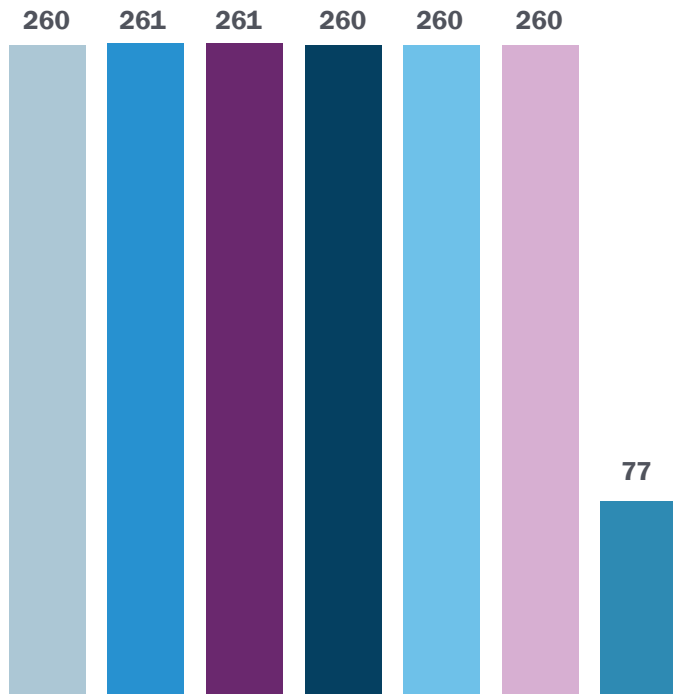
2,566

total services provided



# Total Services

## PROVIDED TO ALL STUDENTS



### SIBLINGS IN SERVICE: THE JOURNEY OF SARAH AND CALEB FALCON

Sarah and Caleb Falcon, devoted siblings united by a deep commitment to service and community, have each forged inspiring paths marked by purpose and compassion.

Caleb was the first to complete the SOUL program, using that foundation to pursue a career in emergency services. He enrolled in the EMT program at Fresno City College, where he developed the skills needed to respond in critical moments. After completing his training, Caleb joined the United States Marine Corps, a decision that reflects his unwavering dedication to serving his country and protecting others. His military service stands as a continuation of his long-held commitment to helping those in need.

Following her brother's example of selflessness, Sarah has devoted her time to hands-on learning through the Student Training and Employment Program. As a volunteer at Animal Rescue of Fresno (ARF), she has developed a strong passion for animal care and welfare. Her work supporting rescue and rehabilitation efforts has strengthened her empathy and problem-solving abilities, and deepened her desire to positively impact her community. This fall, Sarah will begin her studies at Fresno City College, eager to continue her education and explore new opportunities to serve.

Together, Sarah and Caleb Falcon are shaping their futures with intention, resilience, and heart. Guided by a shared belief in the power of service, they exemplify how compassion can create meaningful change in the world.



# Foster Grandparent Program

The Foster Grandparent Program bridges generations as senior volunteers provide one-to-one mentoring and emotional support to underserved infants, children, and teens throughout Fresno and Madera Counties, promoting literacy and academic success as well as fostering social-emotional and cognitive-behavioral development.

Foster Grandparent Program volunteers – referred to affectionately as Grandma or Grandpa – are matched with a young person that will most benefit from heartfelt attention or from guidance by way of an elder’s precious pearl of life wisdom.

## 2025 *impact*



50,250

volunteer hours served



\$679

stipends paid to 70 volunteers in 2025 at \$4.00/hr



55-94

age range of volunteers



70

grandparent volunteers



85

children demonstrating gains in school readiness



25

sites



## ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY

Access to Technology is a free digital literacy program offered by Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission (Fresno EOC) designed to help people of all ages build confidence and skills with everyday technology. The program offers no-cost technology classes and support, teaching participants how to use smartphones, tablets, computers, and the internet safely and confidently.



408

workshops  
conducted



51

engagement sites



565

participants served



## BRIDGING GENERATIONS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

Located beside a neighborhood meat market, a small water filling store has long served as a steady presence in the community. Owned and operated by a senior Hmong couple, the shop provides filtered water to families who return week after week—not just for the service, but for the sense of familiarity and care the couple brings to their work.

While their business was rooted in dedication and hard work, they faced a growing challenge. As more customers turned to online searches and digital maps to find local services, the couple found themselves at a disadvantage. With little experience using smartphones, social media, or digital tools, they had no clear way to promote their business or reach new customers.

That began to change when Fresno EOC's Access to Technology staff conducted outreach in their shopping center. Curious and open to learning, the couple enrolled in a technology class designed specifically for seniors. In a generous gesture, they even offered space inside their store to host the classes—turning their small shop into a place of learning as well as service.

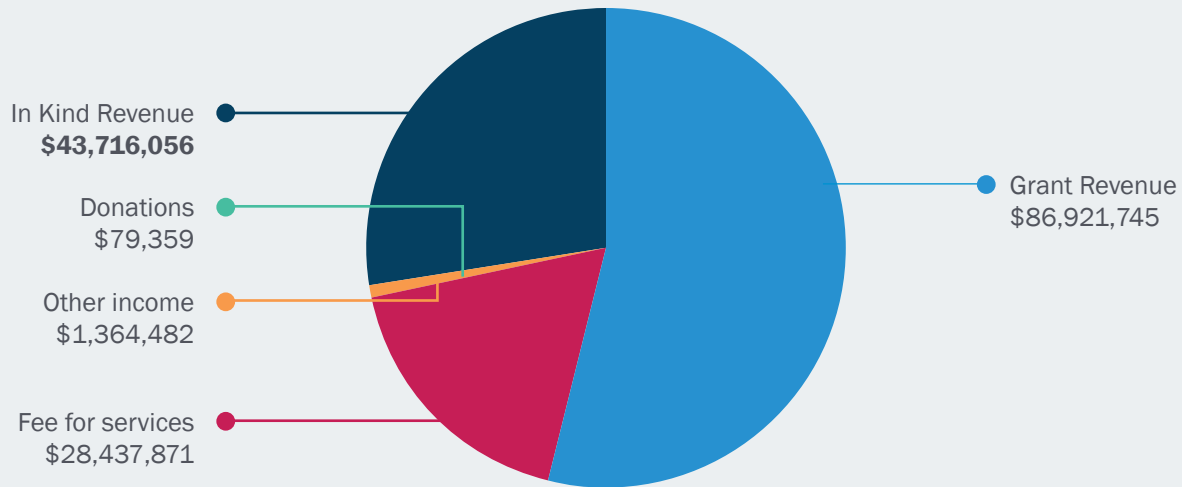
Through the program, the couple is learning how to use smartphone features that once felt out of reach. They are now exploring tools like Google Maps to make their business easier to find and using Facebook to share updates and connect with customers. What has made the experience especially meaningful is the ability to learn in their own language, with instruction provided in Hmong.

They share deep appreciation for the opportunity, hopeful that these new skills will help strengthen their business and keep them connected in an increasingly digital world.

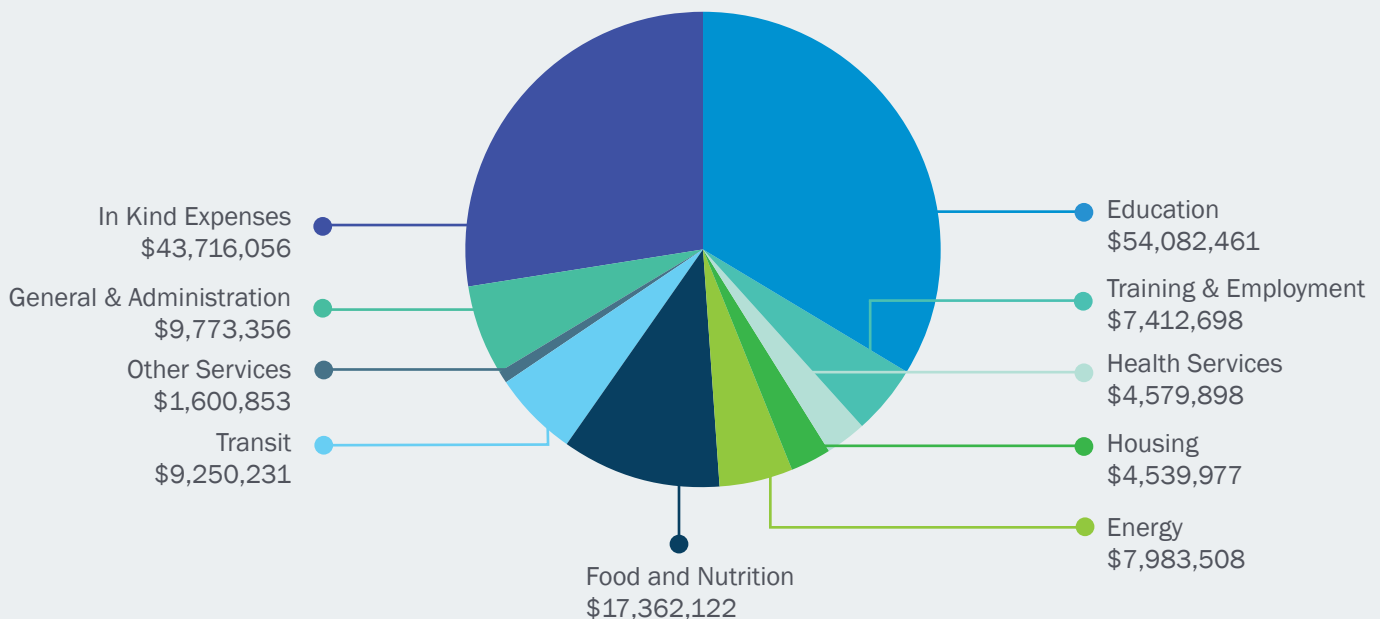


# 2025 Financials\*

TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUES  
**\$160,519,513**



TOTAL EXPENSES  
**\$160,301,160**



\*unaudited financials

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## FRESNO EOC BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

### Low-Income Target Area Elected Representatives

Vacant - Target Area A

Rey Leon - Target Area B

Matt Rogers - Target Area C

Vacant - Target Area D

Shawn Brooks - Target Area E

Alysia Bonner - Target Area F

Earl Brown - Target Area G

Debra McKenzie - Target Area H

### Representatives of Public Elected Officials

Dr. Joaquin Arambula - 31st Assembly District

David Ruiz - Juvenile Court

Rickie Dhillon - Mayor of Fresno Appointee

Barigye McCoy - Fresno County Board of Supervisors

Luis Martinez - 14th Senatorial District

Linzie Daniel - Fresno County Board of Supervisors

### Business and Community Sector

Aldo Alvarado - Head Start County-Wide Policy Council

Steven Taylor - National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Dr. Diane Lira - Fresno County Superintendent of Schools

Elizabeth Buckley - Reel Pride

Jimi Rodgers - Association of Black Social Workers

Pastor Bruce McAlister - West Fresno Faith-Based Organization

Dr. Robert Pimentel, Board Chair - West Hills Community College District



Fresno  
Economic  
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Commission



*To uplift, develop, and achieve.*

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