

Message to the Community...

Our communities are more than neighborhoods, they are ecosystems of healing, strength, and shared humanity. At ASCEND Mental Wellness, we know that mental health, substance use recovery, housing stability, and peer support are deeply interconnected. When people have access to the right supports at the right time, they don't just survive, they thrive.

In 2024, we worked to expand those supports across Warren and Washington counties. Through community education, outreach events, and partnerships, we helped reduce stigma around mental health and substance use while increasing access to care. We strengthened our housing programs, offering individuals a safe, stable foundation from which to rebuild. We walked alongside people in recovery through peer-led programs rooted in lived experience, trust, and hope. And we uplifted youth and families with resources designed to meet them where they are compassionately and without judgment.

This year's efforts reflect our belief that wellness is not a one-size-fits-all journey. It's a network of people, services, and opportunities that adapt to real lives and real needs. Together, we are shaping a community where healing is possible, support is accessible, and no one walks alone.



Every step forward we take is because of supporters like you. Thank you, from all of us at ASCEND, for helping make a lasting impact.

Explore Our Work



Caleo Counseling

1,374 Individuals of all ages served



Robust mental health services in Warren and Washington counties is vital for fostering healthier, more resilient communities.

By offering locally accessible, personalized care, whether in person or via telehealth, we help individuals navigate anxiety, depression, family struggles, and life transitions before they escalate. Early intervention not only improves mental well-being, it keeps families intact, supports workforce stability, and eases pressure on emergency departments and inpatient units.

Showing up where life happens – in schools, throughout our community, and in our clinic.

In 2024, Caleo served 1,374 children, adolescents, adults providing a total 10,388 visits at our onsite clinic, telehealth, school-satellites, and at Glens Falls Pediatrics.

Our Caleo Counseling provides weekly onsite support at Bolton Landing, Fort Ann, and Whitehall Central School Districts. In Fall of 2024, we welcomed Whitehall School District back, to help ensure students and families receive the consistent and compassionate care they need.



Care Management

Building Foundations, One Brick at a Time:

Sometimes progress doesn't happen all at once, it is built slowly, brick by brick. Our Health Home Care Management program helps individuals create a strong foundation for recovery, wellness, and long-term stability.

Whether someone is facing mental health challenges, navigating complex health needs, or struggling with housing or access to care, our care managers provide consistent support and connection. At the core of this work is advocacy, to help break down the barriers that stand in the way of recovery.

Every step matters. Every action matters!

Rep Payee

100

Individuals actively served

Stability, Growth, and Independence

Our Representative Payee services made a meaningful impact in 2024, helping clients build financial stability while working toward their personal goals.

Throughout the year, most clients were able to maintain stable housing, an essential step toward long-term wellness. A few clients proudly reached a major milestone by transitioning to become their own payees after relocating out of county, achieving goals they had worked toward for some time.

Many also met and maintained savings plans tailored to their needs, setting aside money for birthdays, holidays, and other important moments.

It was a strong year of progress and purpose—proof that with the right support, individuals can take control of their financial futures and thrive.



156
Adults and youth actively served in 2024

8
Individuals enrolled for short-term care management





Outreach/LEAMHRS

ASCEND's Outreach team collaborates closely with local and regional partners, including the Glens Falls and Hudson Falls Police Departments, the Sheriff's Offices of Warren and Washington Counties, Warren County Department of Social Services, Washington & Warren County Jails, Warren County Probation, Washington County Probation, and New York State Parole. Together, we work to identify individuals in crisis and connect them with critical mental health and support services.

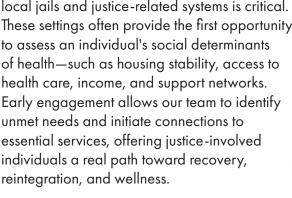
600 Referrals

1,000 Connections to

services

Law Enforcement **Partnerships**

Having embedded outreach resources within local jails and justice-related systems is critical. These settings often provide the first opportunity to assess an individual's social determinants of health—such as housing stability, access to health care, income, and support networks. Early engagement allows our team to identify unmet needs and initiate connections to essential services, offering justice-involved individuals a real path toward recovery,



Connection to Services

| Care Management | 203 |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Mental Health Treatment | 194 |
| Insurance/SSI/County Benefits | 15 <i>7</i> |
| Homeless/Emergency Housing | 106 |
| Primary Care Physician | 100 |
| Substance Use Treatment | 77 |
| Other Housing Services | 66 |
| Peer Support Services | 60 |
| Employment Assistance | 12 |
| Legal Services | 9 |
| Veteran Services | 8 |
| Elder Services | 8 |

Our outreach extends beyond offices and clinics. Our team regularly meets clients in shelters, hospitals, or wherever they're staying—sometimes in encampments or on the streets. That's why we're working to expand our field supports.

Hygiene Care Kits: A Small Step, A Big Difference

In 2024, ASCEND is launching an initiative to create and distribute Hygiene Care Kits for unhoused individuals. These portable kits will include essentials like:

- Toothbrushes & toothpaste
- Soap & shampoo
- Lotion & deodorant
- Feminine hygiene products
- Washcloths & sanitizer

Having these kits allows our outreach specialists to offer not just a conversation, but dignity and care, a small act that builds trust and opens the door to long-term services and wellness.

Restorative Residential Services

Individuals who received an array of services in our Restorative Housing Programs:

34

Community Residences (Genesis & Pearl)

40

Community Living Apartments

Our Restorative Residential Services provide person-centered care in community living settings, including community residences and satellite apartments, for individuals living with serious mental health conditions. These programs foster stability, growth, and connection in supportive environments.





Giving Back and Building Belonging through Meals on Wheels

Since May 2024, clients and staff from ASCEND's Community Residences: Genesis and Pearl Street have been volunteering weekly with the Meals on Wheels program through a partnership with the Warren/Hamilton Counties Office for the Aging and the Cedars Senior Center. Together, they've completed an estimated twenty-eight delivery runs, providing hot and frozen meals for older adults across the region. This meaningful work not only supports seniors in need but also gives our clients a consistent way to give back, fostering connection, purpose, and a strong sense of community.

Dignity in Every Step

Outcomes from this level of care reflect the complexity and dignity of each person's journey. For some, it means developing the skills and confidence to live more independently, whether by obtaining stable housing outside of our program or by transitioning into our Supportive Housing Program. Others may move into long-term care settings, such as assisted living, when aging or medical needs arise.

Each path reflects progress, honoring where people are and what they need to move forward on their terms.



Expanding Care Through Community Living and Meaningful Partnership

In 2024, ASCEND expanded its Community Living Satellite program, adding twenty new beds to our Restorative Residential Services. This critical growth made possible with final approval from the New York State Office of Mental Health in late August reflects months of groundwork, including outreach to landlords willing to partner with us in offering safe, supportive housing.

An essential part of this expansion is ensuring each Restorative Apartment is equipped with the basics needed for stability and connection. Thanks to our generous partners at StoredTech, each new unit will receive a cordless phone with an answering machine—an often-overlooked but vital tool for residents to stay in touch with providers, supports, and loved ones.

Collaborations like this are not just appreciated, they are essential. It takes community commitment to meet people where they are and help them move forward with dignity and the support they deserve.



Supportive Residential Services

A Space to Play, Learn, and Grow: Cooper Street Playroom Completed

In mid-2024, ASCEND proudly completed the creation of our agency's first-ever residential indoor playroom at the Supportive Housing: Cooper Street Apartments—a project nearly a year in the making. This important milestone began in 2023 with a generous donation from 100 Women Who Care of Northeastern New York, whose support helped us expand youth resources for families living within our supportive housing programs.

Designed with care and intention, the new playroom provides children with a safe, engaging space to explore, imagine, and express themselves. Stocked with sensory-based toys, books, and educational materials, the room is meant to support early development and emotional wellness in a calm, welcoming environment.

For the families who call Cooper Street home, this space offers more than just a room to play, it's a space that nurtures creativity, encourages learning, and supports emotional well-being in the heart of their home.



Supportive Housing: Expanding Stability, One Home at a Time

Access to safe, stable housing is foundational to wellness and recovery, yet housing insecurity remains a serious and ongoing concern in Warren and Washington Counties. Whether individuals are chronically homeless, temporarily staying with others, or living without shelter, the need for supportive, affordable housing options continues to grow.

In response, our Supportive Residential Services has expanded its Scattered Site Supportive Housing Program, adding twenty-five new beds to better serve individuals in need. This expansion reflects our commitment to reducing homelessness in the region by connecting individuals with housing and wraparound support services that foster long-term stability.

While we have acquired all twenty-five beds, we are always actively seeking partnerships with local landlords who have rental units in Warren or Washington Counties and the opportunity to make a lasting impact in addressing the housing crisis affecting our neighbors and community.

Individuals who received an array of services in our Supportive Housing Programs

21 Housing First

29Cooper Street

Scattered-Site
Supportive Housing



Interim Housing: Stability, Support, and a Path Forward

Our Interim Room Program is designed to offer immediate, short-term housing support while helping individuals take meaningful steps toward long-term stability. Located within our Supportive Housing: Cooper Street Apartments, we provide up to twelve beds for adult men. At our Housing First site in Hudson Falls, we also offer four beds designated for women.

Each guest enters the program with a personalized intake and needs assessment. From there, an individualized plan is created to guide their path forward, whether that includes securing permanent housing, obtaining identification and credentials, applying for benefits, or accessing employment and counseling services. For those without existing case management, short-term care coordination is available to bridge that gap.

Referrals to the program primarily come from Outreach, Warren County and Washington County Departments of Social Services, Glens Falls agencies, and Open Door Mission. In 2024, 64% of individuals entering the program were referred through these partners.

Demonstrating the depth of need, 45% of interim room guests arrived with no source of income, while another 46% were either actively employed or receiving assistance. These figures highlight both the urgency of our work and the resilience of those we serve.

Support Services

East Side Center

91

Individuals participated in our East Side Center Psycosocial Day Program

3,396

Healthy accessible meals through our East Side Center Lunch Program

52

Recreational & Social Activities from weekly outlings and groups at the center

East Side Center Lunch Program

The East Side Center (ESC) Lunch Program provides nutritious, low- or no-cost meals to adults 18+ facing food insecurity, social isolation, and other challenges. As the only program of its kind in a multi-county area.

Thanks to community grants, like the Lend-A-Hand Grant through the Adirondack Trust Community Fund, support from the Glens Falls Lion Club, and in-kind donations from Uncommon Grounds of Queensbury, Glens Falls Produce, and others, we can continue providing essential meals and maintaining accessibility for our members.

Continued support whether in-kind or monetary, helps us manage rising food costs while directly addressing food insecurity for our members.



Bringing Walls to Life: East Side Center Mural Project

What started as a spark of creativity from members of the East Side Center Psychosocial Club has grown into one of the most transformative projects of the year.

Their vision came to life in 2024 with the completion of four original murals, each one a reflection of the values and vitality of the East Side Center community. Upon entering from Orchard Street, visitors are now welcomed by a bold mural featuring the ASCEND logo, an immediate reminder of identity and purpose. In the gym, a vibrant design celebrates movement and wellness, while the art room mural honors self-expression and creativity. The heart of the center features a "Community Tree," symbolizing growth, connection, and collective strength.



The project offered a therapeutic way for individuals to share their hopes, strengths, and sense of belonging. As the vision grows, we invite the community to support future murals by contributing to art supplies, helping turn ideas into inspiration, one wall at a time.



Transportation Services

Reliable transportation is a crucial part of daily life, yet for many individuals we serve throughout Warren and Washington Counties, it's not easily accessible. Financial barriers, physical mobility challenges, and cognitive or medical limitations often make driving impossible or unsafe.

To help meet this need, our transportation program provides consistent access to essential destinations, including medical appointments, grocery stores, laundromats, and pharmacies. This service supports not only physical health, but also independence, stability, and connection to the

broader community. It is one of the many ways we work to ensure that every person has the support they need to live well.



513

Individuals needing transportation services in Warren & Washington Counties





Work Program

Our Work Program, coordinated by East Side Center, provides paid employment opportunities for individuals receiving support through our agency.

For many, it's more than a job, it's a step toward stability, purpose, and connection. Participants receive training and soft skills coaching in a flexible, person-centered setting that supports their goals. Whether someone is entering the workforce for the first time or returning after a difficult period, the program offers a supportive space to build skills and confidence.

21

Individuals were enrolled in our work program.

2,662

Jobs worked

6,083Hours worked

Dual Recovery

Supporting Peer-led support through continuous engagement.

Our Dual Recovery program continues to provide vital peer-driven support to individuals navigating both mental health and substance use recovery. In 2024 alone, we offered critical support through group sessions, community meetings, and one-on-one interactions.

1,203
Dual Recovery Contacts

262

Peers met with individuals for 1:1 support



Expanding Connections

Peer engagement doesn't stop at direct encounters. In 2024, we saw continued growth in two of our critical communication tools: The "Roads To Recovery Newsletter" and the Peer Perspective Podcast.

Despite operating solely through word of mouth and basic social media outreach, the newsletter saw measurable growth. By October 2024, that number had risen from 283 to 307, with postal delivery also increasing from 20 to 36, a notable improvement in reaching individuals without digital access, particularly in rural and isolated areas.



Likewise, the Peer Perspective Podcast, launched in October 2023, completed its first full year with remarkable results. Built on organic outreach, the show now streams on four major platforms. Over the course of forty-one episodes. Celebrating the podcast's one year anniversary and with over twenty guest contributors across the year, the podcast has served as a powerful storytelling platform for recovery experiences related to mental health, substance use, and addiction.

541

Podcast Plays for 2024 on Spotify, iHeartRadio, Apple & Amazon.





Wellness Garden

Our Wellness Garden continues to grow as a space that nourishes both people and possibilities. Beyond serving as a therapeutic and engaging environment, the garden has become an important avenue for sustainable fundraising while strengthening connections to our community.

Year after year, our garden flourishes. In 2024, we proudly grew over twenty different types of produce, flowers and herbs providing fresh, locally grown food for program participants, and the broader community. Through

initiatives like our annual Spring Plant Sale, Harvest Market, and Weekly Farmers Market, the garden not only supports healthier living but also

generates meaningful, sustainable funding for our programs.

By blending sustainability with community impact, the Wellness Garden helps us cultivate growth in every sense: nourishing bodies, supporting our mission, and building a stronger, healthier future







Sustainable Efforts

Fresh produce from the garden supplements our East Side Center Lunch Program, keeping costs low while adding healthy, locally grown options for clients and the community.

Additionally, we reduce food waste by composting what we can, returning nutrients back to the garden to support future growth.



Different types of produce

\$1,517

Raised through fundraising efforts for the garden

5

Fundraising intiatives (Spring Plant Sale, Summer Plant Sale, Weekly Farmers Market, Fall Harvest Market, and Holiday Pop-up





Cultivating Wellness

The Wellness Garden continues to expand its reach through new community partnerships. We welcomed the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Warren County for a tour of the garden. Garden Coordinator Kayleigh Winne shared the vision behind the space and our holistic approach to therapeutic gardening.







Collaborations

In 2024, we partnered with Warren County Public Health to present a series of Mental Health 101 workshops across Warren County bringing education, awareness, and support directly to residents.

This community discussion that highlighted key topics like mental health vs. mental illness, recognizing warning signs, and connecting to local resources to demystifying the subject in an intimate, supportive setting.



A huge part of our community connection comes through our partnership with the Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce. Through opportunities like the Leadership Adirondack Program, participants visited our 230 Maple Street location to learn about our mission and toured East Side Center and our Wellness Garden. We're also proud to have Sarah Brown our Residential Coordinator for Restorative Housing, representing ASCEND in the 2024-2025



Throughout the year, our staff take part in mandatory trainings designed to strengthen their skills and better serve our communities. In 2024, several of our staff across multiple departments participated in The Open Door Mission's De-Escalation Training, enhancing expertise in conflict resolution and crisis response. We're grateful for this partnership that helps grow and empower mental health professionals in our region.





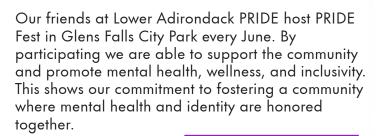
ASCEND participated in two forums hosted by the Open Door Mission, focused on supporting individuals navigating reentry and recovery. Discussions explored the impact of recidivism, the importance of early engagement, and the role of coordinated services in successful reentry. Our Director of Supportive Residential Services & Outreach, Amber Beaudet, shared insights on connecting justice-involved individuals with housing, peer support, and recovery services. These forums highlight our commitment to collaboration that fosters stability, reduces recidivism, and supports whole-person recovery.

One of our biggest collaborative efforts is participating in the Warren Washington Counties Brainstorm & Chalk the Walk events each year. These events, held in May and October, celebrate brain health, mental wellness, and recovery.

At these events we are able to share information about our programs, services, and mental health resources with the community.



Year after year, we partner with Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Southern Adirondacks, serving as one of many drop-off locations for their Annual Christmas Toy Drive. Thanks to the generosity of our staff and community, we helped collect 127 toys for children in need in 2024.







In 2024, Caffè Lena's On the Road Music Program brought live performances to the East Side Center, including the bluegrass sounds of The Cody Sisters and the Irish harp and guitar duo Máire Ní Chathasaigh and Chris Newman.

These moments of music go beyond entertainment, they create connection, spark joy, and support mental wellness. Thanks to collaborations like this, our program members gain access to enriching experiences that inspire and uplift.



Learn how to get involved with us today! www.ascendmw.org/get-involved

Advocacy in Action

Our commitment to advocacy starts from within.

Mental Health Month

Each May, we proudly recognize Mental Health Awareness Month by uplifting voices, building understanding, and advocating for change. Throughout the month, we focus on raising awareness, breaking stigma, and educating our communities about the importance of mental health and wellness.

A powerful symbol of our commitment is our Tree of Hope Celebration in City Park, Glens Falls. This community installation serves as a visible reminder that mental health matters every day. Adorned with green ribbons and messages of hope, the tree invites all who pass by to pause, reflect, and remember they are not alone.

Another cornerstone of our Mental Health Month efforts is our Annual Community Event, which in 2024 evolved into a fundraiser to deepen community engagement and support. This gathering brings together mental health advocates, community partners, professionals, and community members for a day of connection, education, and celebration.

We proudly honor individuals and businesses, both within and beyond the mental health field who have made meaningful contributions to mental wellness in our region.



Warren County Board of Supervisors - Dorothea Dix Community Service Award for dedicating nearly \$1.1 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to local mental health care improvements in Warren County.





WAIT House -Walter P. Reichert for their introduction of clinical social work services embedded in their services serving the homeless youth in Warren and Washington Counties.



Our staff proudly participates every year in the Annual ACLAIMH Conference, hosted by the Association for Community Living.

This conference provides our team with essential opportunities to stay current on the evolving landscape of behavioral health—covering topics such as mental health housing, innovative care initiatives, and critical Medicaid updates.

Each year, our participation deepens our knowledge, sharpens our skills, and strengthens our ability to adapt our programs to better serve our communities. Engaging in these conversations ensures we remain informed, connected, and committed to advancing mental health care across New York State.

Advocating for Change: Mental Health Matters Day in Albany

Every year, ASCEND proudly participates in Mental Health Matters Day, hosted by the Mental Health Association in New York State (MHANYS). This important day of advocacy brings together individuals, organizations, and allies from across New York to rally in Albany in support of mental health funding, suicide prevention efforts, and essential community-based programs.

Through direct advocacy with legislators and a visible presence at the Capitol, we join hundreds of others working to ensure mental health remains a statewide priority. Mental Health Matters Day is a powerful reminder that policy change begins with people willing to speak up, stand together, and demand a better future for all New Yorkers.



Redefining What It Means to Volunteer

At ASCEND, we're shifting the narrative, volunteering is no longer just about giving time. It's about the intention, impact, and care behind every action. A volunteer is anyone who shows up with purpose and helps move our mission forward, whether through sweat equity, skill, or spirit.

In 2024, we were proud to welcome Wal-Mart of Queensbury–Route 9 and Travelers Insurance as partners in purpose.





Wal-Mart's team supported our Wellness Garden, rolling up their sleeves to help rebuild raised beds and spread over 20 cubic yards of mulch across the perennial garden, "Back 40," and the entrance to our high tunnel, ensuring the space remained vibrant and sustainable.

Travelers brought energy and heart to every project. Their volunteers made a significant impact across several of our locations, including Restorative Community Residences, Community Living Apartments, and Caleo Counseling through landscaping, painting, staining, and general beautification efforts.





But volunteering goes far beyond physical labor. At ASCEND, we're always looking to expand the ways people can get involved especially through life-skill sharing and interest-based volunteering.

Our goal is to provide groups that not only inspire but also strengthen everyday life skills, ignite creativity, and build confidence. Whether it is leading a group or workshop at our residences, East Side Center, or our Wellness Garden, your presence can make a lasting impact.

This page is more than a list of names—it is a reflection of compassion in action. Each gift represents a hand extended, a door opened, and a voice saying, 'You matter."

\$35,083.49

Donations Recieved

88

Donors/Supporters for 2024

In Memory of Martha Elizabeth

Horrigan:

Ann Sullivan

Dorothy O'Connell

Thomas Cantiello

Cathleen Cantitello

Nancy Nicholson

Christine & Frederick Shear

In Memory of Dr. Patrick Cavanagh, PHD:

Phyllis Cavanagh

In Memory of Susan Morse:

Elaine Huntington

Community Supporters:

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern

Adirondacks

Council for Prevention

Knights of Columbus Glens Falls

Council #194

Open Door Mission

Pine Knolls Alliance Chruch

Foundations:

Adirondack Trust Community Fund

Amy Carpenter Scholarship Fund:

PAL's Alliance, LTD

Corporate Supporters:

Arrow Bank

Chicago Trading Company Hannaford Bloomin' 4 Good

Hudson Headwaters Health

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Network

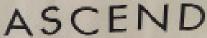
Seeley Office Systems

Stewarts Holiday Match

SUNY Adirondack

Travelers

Wal-Mart



MENTAL WELLINESS

General Donations:

Amber Beaudet

Amy Wood

Angela Wolfe

Anthony Gagliano

Ashley Marie

Beth Purdy

Bobbi Nelson

Catherine Pink

Cathleen Traver

Cheryl Hahn

Christopher Farrell

Cynthia Mead Popeck

Danielle Weiss

Debbie Geer

Ginger Miller

Heather Van Dyke

Jake Weiss

J. Lawrence Paltrowitz

Joe Kelly

Judy Chittenden Moffitt

Kayleigh Winne

Kim Huenemann

Kyle Kennedy

Laura Eldred

Lisa Baker

Lorrie Smith

Melissa Chenier

Melissa Geraghty

Michele Scherer

Peter Groff

Richard Cipperly

Rob York

Ryan Haig

Sarah Hoffman

Scott Hahn

Shelley Smith

Stephanie Hernandez

Stephen Joseph Sheridan

Susan McManus

Teresa Joy Vedder

Tricia Rogers

Trudy Allen

In-Kind Donations:

Adirondack Landscape Supply Co.

Colorize Inc.

Cuddle Bug - Wiggle Worm Playland

Family Footwear

Jessica LaSarso

Joellen W.

Karen Lapine Coughlan

Mandy's Pizza & Subs

Nicole Casey

Six Flags Great Escape

Schutze Family Dentistry

Stewarts Shops Corporation

StoredTech Technology Solutions

Susan G.

Robin P.

Water & Soil Conservation

District - Warren County



By the Numbers

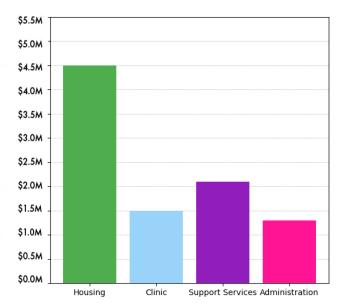
In 2024, \$35,083.49 was contributed by 88 individuals, businesses, community groups, and grantmakers toward ASCEND's mission.

Whether through direct support or participation in our fundraisers, like the East Side Center Car Wash, our annual Community Awards, or garden initiatives, every gift helped move our work forward.

While this reflects a decrease from the previous year, we remain deeply grateful for the continued belief in our work and the strength of our community partnerships.

Many 2024 contributions came in the form of in-kind donations that directly benefited individuals across our Residential, Care Management, East Side Center, and Wellness Garden programs. These non-monetary gifts often filled urgent needs or created meaningful moments of support and connection.



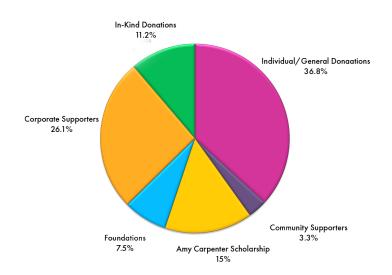


What remains constant is this: your support powers our work. Every donation large or small roots us deeper in community and allows growth with purpose.

Notes:

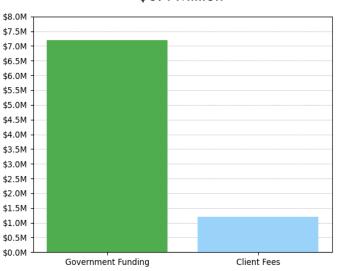
- 1. 2024 Audited Financial Figures
- 2. All categories have been rounded to closest \$100,000

Fundraising 2024



Much of our work is sustained through government support and client contributions, allowing us to focus on what matters most: programs and services that make a real difference in people's lives. The majority of our resources go directly to housing, clinical care, and community support, while less than 14% covers the administration needed to keep everything running efficiently. Supported by a team of more than 100 committed professionals, all initiatives are focused on generating significant impact.

Revenue 2024 \$8.4 Million



Encourage and assist individuals in discovering pathways to their optimal mental health and wellness, while supporting hope and awareness of well-being in our community.



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Website

ascendmw.org

Socials



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