



2024

ANNUAL REPORT

Mississippi Alliance of
Nonprofits and Philanthropy



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**MISSISSIPPI
ALLIANCE**
of **NONPROFITS**
AND **PHILANTHROPY**

▶ OUR ORGANIZATION

Nonprofit and philanthropic organizations have long played a vital role in improving the quality of life for individuals, families, and communities across Mississippi. The Mississippi Alliance of Nonprofits and Philanthropy (the Alliance) builds on more than three decades of experience to provide leadership, organizational development, and strategic support to help these organizations address a wide range of challenges.

We connect nonprofit and philanthropic leaders in ways that transform how they work—ensuring they have the tools, resources, training, and networks needed to create lasting impact. Through affinity groups, online platforms, and facilitated collaboration, our members move quickly from conversation to action, strengthening both individual organizations and the sector as a whole.

As Mississippi’s statewide membership association for nonprofits and philanthropies, the Alliance exists to serve, strengthen, and support the organizations working every day to build stronger, more resilient communities. We provide training, resources, policy updates, and opportunities to connect—helping organizations grow their capacity and amplify their mission.

Whether through strategic partnerships, peer learning, or advocacy, we’re committed to ensuring Mississippi’s social impact sector thrives. Our mission is clear: to serve, build capacity, and foster collaboration across Mississippi’s nonprofit and philanthropic communities.

▶ OUR MISSION

To serve, build capacity, and foster collaboration among and between Mississippi’s nonprofit and philanthropic communities.

▶ OUR VISION

The Alliance envisions effective and efficient nonprofit and philanthropic organizations throughout the state, working together to improve the lives of the people and communities of Mississippi.



Letter from the

DIRECTORS



Ann Marie Kinnell
Chair, Board of Directors



Ellen Collins
Executive Director

Greetings to our many members, supporters, and friends.

2024 was an incredible year, and it was clear—when we come together with our ideas, resources, and relationships, we harness the power of collective action to drive transformative change. This year, the Mississippi Alliance of Nonprofits and Philanthropy continued to demonstrate how collaboration, shared learning, and collective vision can strengthen our state’s nonprofit and philanthropic sector to improve the lives of people and communities across Mississippi.

Our annual member meeting, centered on the idea of collective giving, brought together more than 100 members and stakeholders for an in-depth discussion on giving circles and funder collaboratives and their growing role in driving change and local impact. Soon after, we held our first Circle Up! Mississippi event. Working with partners including Philanthropy Together and Philanos, we highlighted the national giving circle movement and demonstrated how anyone can be a philanthropist by joining forces with others who share a commitment to making the world a better place.

In partnership with the Community Foundation Network, we celebrated the growing success of the Endow Mississippi Tax Credit Program, as charitable giving applications for tax credits increased by 13% from the previous year. The Alliance also collaborated with CFN to host 14 community conversations across Mississippi, bringing together nonprofits, businesses, and local and state government leaders to identify opportunities for cooperation, collective problem-solving, and advocacy.

Using futurist tools, we convened members of our Health Affinity Group for a visioning session to map out an ideal future for health equity in Mississippi. Partnering with the FutureGood Studio, participants explored innovative, equity-centered approaches to improving community well-being. Additionally, Alliance staff engaged with peer nonprofit associations from across the southern region to exchange best practices in management, leadership, and sustainability—ensuring that Mississippi’s sector remains strong, informed, and forward-thinking.

These efforts reflect our ongoing commitment to advancing collective impact, grounded in the understanding that our sector’s greatest strength lies in what we can accomplish together. We extend our deepest gratitude to our donors, members, and partners. Your continued trust and investment make this work possible. Together, we are building the capacity, resilience, and innovation needed to ensure a thriving nonprofit and philanthropic ecosystem in Mississippi.

As we look ahead, the Alliance remains focused on strengthening connections, expanding learning opportunities, and equipping organizations with the tools, knowledge and resources to create lasting impact. The power of “we” will continue to guide our work as we envision and build a brighter future for Mississippi’s communities.

With gratitude

Ann Marie Kinnell
Ann Marie Kinnell

Ellen Collins
Ellen Collins

EXCELLENCE IN ACTION

Advancing Nonprofit Leadership Across Mississippi

Rooted in the **12 Principles & Standards for Nonprofit Management Excellence**, our Excellence in Action program continues to serve as a cornerstone of capacity building for Mississippi's nonprofit sector. Through this transformative initiative, nonprofit leaders and organizations gain the tools, strategies, and insights needed to strengthen their operations, enhance accountability, and maximize their community impact.

Over the past year, the program engaged a diverse group of dedicated professionals and organizations who demonstrated an unwavering commitment to excellence. Participants completed a rigorous curriculum designed to align leadership practices with the highest standards of nonprofit management — from governance and financial management to civic engagement & advocacy, evaluation, and most importantly ethical fundraising.

We proudly recognize the following individuals who successfully completed the program and earned their Individual Certifications in Nonprofit Excellence:

We also extend our congratulations to the following organizations that achieved **Organizational Certification in Nonprofit Excellence**:
Mississippi Alliance of Nonprofits and Philanthropy, Teen Health Mississippi, and Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area (MS Delta NHA).

Each of these individuals and organizations exemplifies what it means to lead with integrity, innovation, and purpose. Their dedication to professional growth and organizational excellence reflects the very spirit of the Excellence in Action program — ensuring Mississippi's nonprofits continue to thrive and create lasting change in the communities they serve.

Amy Mims, Angela Carson, Arnita F. Knight, Asha Moore, Bailey Shelton, Bernice Moore, Bubba O'Keefe, Carol Black, Caroline Kemp, Chandra Hines, Crystal Brown, Crystal James, David Lewis, DeLorean King, Donnebra Grant, Doris Miller, Dr. Kathie Golden, Dr. Myrtis Tabb, Dr. Sean Daniels, Dr. Todd Campbell, Elizabeth Davidson, Erika Henderson, Franklin Anderson, Gail Wambsgans, Jamie Rasberry, Jane Marie Young, Jasmine Styles, Jasonya Harris, Jessica Flowers, Jessica Senter, Johnny Hughes, Jordan Hillhouse, Keena Griffin, Kenitra Wallace, Kierre Rimmer, Kim Terrell, Kimberly Massey, Kym Parnell, Kym Schank, Lasheka Bell, LaTasha Rice, Laura Beth Strickland, LaWanda Thompson, Lesley Dill, Linda Stringfellow, Malika Polk-Lee, Marqueta Perkins, Marsha Garziano, Marshea Cooper, Mary A. Brooks, Mary Williams, Michael Salone, MJ Shappley, Monica Thomas, Nakiesha Fipps, Patricia Magee, Patrick Ervin, Peggie Henderson, Phil Schank, PK Thomas, Raymond Welch, Reginald Moore, Rita Styles, Rolando Herts, Sandra Johnson, Shaunta McDowell, Sophia Williams, Spencer Nash, Stephanie Patton, Stuart Rockoff, Sylvia Turner, Tabatha Nelson, Tammie Gray, Terri Province, Theresa King, Thomas Mullally, Tracy L. Colman, Tracye Moore-Thomas, Trena Robinson, Twana Rigsby, Veronica Simmons, Wayne Dowdy, Whitney French, Willette Thomas, Yolanda West, and Zolgretha Brown.

MEMBERSHIP

The Heart of our Network

Our members are the foundation of everything we do. They represent the strength, diversity, and spirit of Mississippi's nonprofit community — and together, they form a vibrant network committed to service, collaboration, and lasting impact.

Our network is powered by **254 MEMBERS** working together to drive impact across our communities.

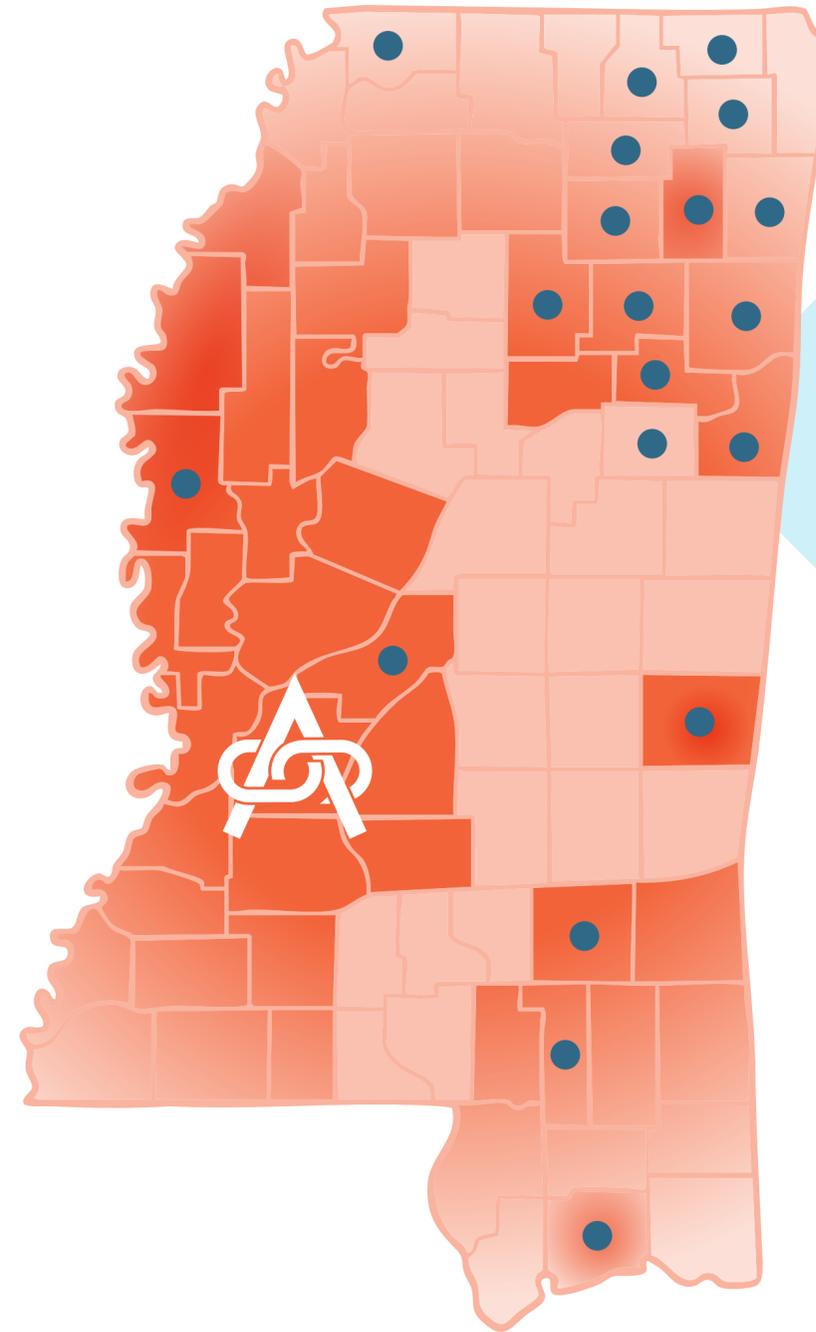
This year, our membership remained strong and dynamic, reflecting the rich diversity of the communities we serve. Our network brings together individuals and philanthropists, nonprofits of every size, foundations, faith-based institutions, youth mentoring programs, small businesses, retirees, and dedicated nonprofit professionals working every day to make Mississippi stronger.

Each member contributes unique perspectives, experiences, and energy. Together, they create a vibrant community of leaders and changemakers who keep this network active, innovative, and thriving.

Throughout the year, our member meetings provided spaces to reconnect with old friends, make new ones, and share experiences that strengthen our sense of community. Our convenings and special gatherings offered even more — opportunities to exchange ideas, gain new knowledge, and leave inspired to take action.

Key

-  Nonprofit members by density
-  Foundation members
-  The Alliance home office





POLICY

Nonprofit Civic Engagement Collective

Mississippi's nonprofits play a vital role in strengthening communities, yet too few engage in advocacy that shapes the policies affecting their missions. The Nonprofit Civic Engagement Collective was created to change that by building the knowledge, confidence, and networks nonprofit leaders need to engage effectively in public policy at every level.

The Collective launched and graduated its first cohort in 2024, bringing together nonprofit professionals from across the state committed to elevating the voice of the sector. Participants explored how Mississippi's legislative process works, the difference between advocacy and lobbying, and how to develop and advance public policy initiatives rooted in their organizations' missions. Along the way, participants connected with policymakers and public policy professionals, focused their messaging and communications, and prepared their organizations to be stronger advocates for the communities they serve. By graduation,

Collective members were equipped with practical tools and a statewide peer network to sustain civic engagement.

The program ensures that Mississippi's nonprofit community not only responds to policy but helps shape it, creating a more vibrant, equitable, and resilient state for our communities and families.

CONVENINGS

Annual Member Meeting

Collective Philanthropy: Moving Further, Together

In 2024, we continued to champion collective philanthropy—an approach that brings people, organizations, and resources together to create stronger, more sustainable impact. Instead of acting alone, donors join forces, combining funding, expertise, and relationships to tackle challenges that no single contributor could address as effectively on their own.

Collective philanthropy shows up in several powerful models:

Giving Circles Groups of individuals with shared values pool their time and dollars, making collaborative decisions about where their resources can do the most good.

Funder Collaboratives Foundations and large funders work together, blending resources and knowledge to drive large-scale initiatives and amplify each other's strengths.

These collective approaches are helping shape a future where generosity is more strategic, more inclusive, and more impactful—exactly the kind of momentum we're proud to nurture in communities across Mississippi.

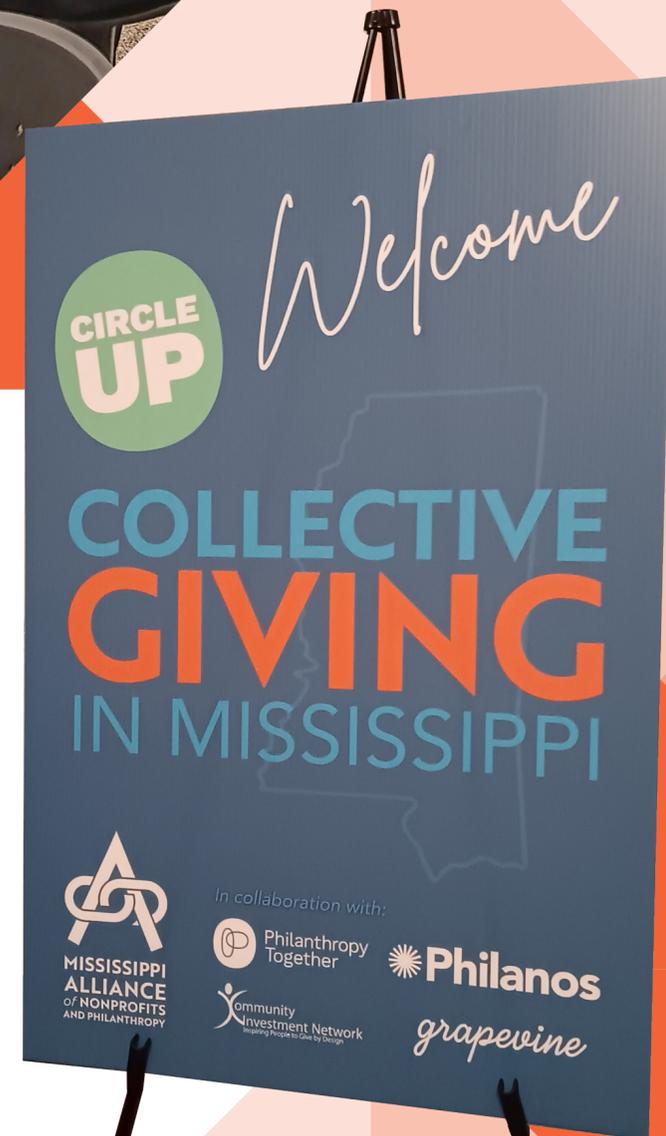
Giving Circles Kickoff

In 2024, the Mississippi Alliance of Nonprofits and Philanthropy was awarded a major three-year grant from the Fidelity Charitable® Catalyst Fund to strengthen local philanthropy across Mississippi. This initiative supports the creation and expansion of giving circles—collaborative groups that pool resources and decide together how to make a collective impact.

Through partnerships with several of our state Community Foundations and non profit organizations, the Alliance is helping to establish new giving circles and enhance existing ones to grow local giving, engage diverse donors, and empower new generations of philanthropists.



The grant also invests in the professional development of Mississippi's fundraising workforce. Support for the Mississippi Fundraising Professionals group and the Alliance's Fundraising Executive Training Program ensures nonprofit leaders have access to the skills, connections, and tools needed to sustain their missions for years to come.



HEALTH AFFINITY GROUP: IDEAL FUTURE VISIONING



In November 2024, our Health Affinity Group convened leaders from across the state to envision a healthier, more equitable future for Mississippi. The discussion highlighted how collaboration—among nonprofits, government agencies, and community partners—fuels meaningful progress in public health.

Members explored ways to strengthen workforce resilience, addressing mental health, burnout, and the need to rebuild trust between caregivers and communities. They also emphasized the growing impact of Community Health Workers (CHWs) as trusted connectors and educators, particularly in expanding telehealth access and digital inclusion across the state.

The group reaffirmed its commitment to gathering data on Mississippi’s healthcare workforce and advancing a shared Ideal Future for the Field statement. Guided by the Alliance’s mission, this work reflects a united belief: lasting health equity is built through partnership, shared purpose, and collective action.

***Health equity is
built through
partnership, shared
purpose, and
collective action.***



with **TRISTA HARRIS**

ENDOW MISSISSIPPI

Endow Mississippi is a partnership between the Alliance and the Community Foundation Network dedicated to fostering a culture of giving in Mississippi. Through the Endow Mississippi Tax Credit Program, eligible donors receive a 25% tax credit for contributions to permanent endowments at qualified community foundations. This initiative encourages local philanthropy and builds on Mississippi's strong tradition of neighbors helping neighbors, ensuring a lasting impact for generations to come.

From 2023 to 2024, the program saw a 13% increase in qualifying charitable gifts resulting in applications for tax credits.

NUMBER OF GIFTS: **98**



AMOUNT OF GIFTS:

\$3,867,304.15

TOTAL AMOUNT OF TAX CREDITS USED:

\$966,826.29

For comparison, donors contributed ~half a million more through this program in 2024 than 2023.





CONSULTANTS

At the heart of our mission to empower Mississippi's nonprofit community are our Organizational Development Consultants (ODCs) — a team of dedicated professionals committed to helping organizations grow stronger, more sustainable, and more effective in achieving their missions.

Throughout the year, our ODCs provided one-on-one consultations, guiding nonprofit leaders through challenges in governance, finance, strategic planning, and program development. These personalized sessions help organizations identify opportunities for growth, strengthen internal systems, and build the capacity needed to serve their communities more effectively.

In addition to direct consultations, our consultants led a wide range of training courses and workshops, both public and private. These sessions covered essential topics such as board development, leadership, fundraising, and organizational strategy — all designed to equip nonprofit teams with the knowledge and tools they need to thrive.

By combining tailored consulting with accessible, high-impact learning experiences, our Organizational Development Consultants reached nonprofits of all sizes and stages. Their work embodies our belief that strong organizations build stronger communities, and their efforts continue to make a lasting impact across Mississippi and beyond.

A STORY OF CONNECTION



Lolly Rash
MS Heritage Trust

Mississippi's Freedom Houses stand as profound reminders of the everyday acts of courage that helped secure voting rights, advance integration efforts, and create more opportunities for every Mississippian. With funding from partners, including the Mellon Foundation Monuments Project, MHT has launched the [Mississippi Freedom Houses Project](#) to help owners of Freedom Houses navigate the world of nonprofits to achieve their goals.

A project of this scale required more than grant dollars and architectural expertise. Mississippi Heritage Trust needed a partner that could help bridge the gap between the important work and the capacity needed to sustain it.

Our statewide expertise in nonprofit training and technical assistance made the partnership a natural fit.

"We were looking for a partner that could provide high-level education for the nonprofit world, but also detailed support when these folks needed assistance with specific items," said Rash. "The Alliance's statewide expertise in capacity building made them a natural partner for this work."

While Mississippi Heritage Trust focused on stabilizing and restoring the physical structures, we focused on strengthening the people behind them.

"These participants did not necessarily have a nonprofit background," Rash explained. "The opportunity to engage with other nonprofit leaders and learn how organizations operate was invaluable."

Through our Excellence in Action program, we brought

families together, covering nonprofit formation, governance, compliance, grant writing, and financial management.

The Freedom House Project demonstrates what's possible when capacity building and community connection work together—when organizations receive not just training, but ongoing partnership, and when preservation means empowering the people who keep these stories alive.

A STORY OF CONNECTION

Susan Kennedy | LLH/LLHM Foundation



When the LLH/LHM Foundation sought to extend its grantmaking beyond New England, the organization aimed to identify credible, mission-aligned nonprofit leaders in Mississippi. Their search led them to us, and our deep knowledge of Mississippi's nonprofit sector turned exploration into opportunity.

"They asked thoughtful questions and made sure they had a solid understanding before suggesting anything. They took the time to understand our mission and what kinds of programs we support," Susan Kennedy of the LLH/LHM Foundation, explained. "That thoughtful approach made all the difference."

We provided the LLH/LHM Foundation with a carefully curated portfolio of organizations, which

led them to First Place for Youth, a program that aligns closely with the foundation's goals of supporting young adults as they build independent, stable lives.

"When that name appeared on the list, it just danced right forward for us," Kennedy shared. "If it were not for the Alliance, we would never have found First Place for Youth in Mississippi."

The connection with LLH/LHM Foundation was transformative for First Place for Youth as a relatively new organization in Mississippi. "The funding enabled [us] to expand [our] impact by supporting youth advocates who help young people build essential life skills after exiting foster care at 18," said Claudia Miller, chief development and public engagement officer. "The [LLH/LHM Foundation] grant

allowed us to connect them with mental health support, whether that's access to a therapist or simply ensuring they have a stable, trusted adult in their lives," she added.

"When you're a newer organization, you're not sure if people are hearing what you do, if they're understanding it. To be recognized and to be called out felt really nice for [us]," said Miller.

Supporting collaboration among Mississippi's nonprofit and philanthropic communities is part of our mission. By connecting the LLH/LHM Foundation with First Place for Youth, we were able to introduce a new funder into the state and raise the visibility of a new nonprofit serving an often-overlooked population.

"You just get a sense of real confidence in them," Kennedy reflected. "They know the nonprofit universe in Mississippi, and they make the state's organizations easy to see."

For Kennedy, the experience demonstrated how intermediary organizations strengthen philanthropy by bridging information gaps and geographic distance.

OUR BOARD



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Lloyd Gray
Vice Chair



Dr. Ivey Allen
Secretary



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Jane Alexander



Mike Dixon



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Executive Director



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Delorean King
*Programs and
Membership Associate*



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*Programs and
Strategy Associate*



Willette Y. Thomas
Executive Coordinator

SUPPORTERS

Annie E. Casey Foundation
Bank Plus
Bower Foundation
Bradley Arant Boult Cummings, LLP
Center for Research Evaluation
Charles L. Young Sr. Foundation
CNCS-AmeriCorps
Community Foundation for Mississippi
Community Foundation of East Mississippi
Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi
Community Foundation of Washington County
CREATE Foundation
Entergy
Fidelity Charitable Trustees Initiative
Gulf Coast Community Foundation
Jackson Medical Mall Foundation

Maddox Foundation
Microsoft Philanthropy
National Council of Nonprofits
New Venture Fund
Pinebelt Community Foundation
Regions Bank
Regions Foundation
Results
The Chisholm Foundation
The Dick Molpus Foundation
The Phil Hardin Foundation
Volunteer Mississippi
W.K. Kellogg Foundation
Walton Family Foundation
Wells Fargo Foundation
Woodward Hines Education Foundation

Individual gifts from the board, staff, and supporters.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2024

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$160,240
Accounts receivable	\$132,550
Other assets	\$7,100
Prepaid expenses	\$4,816
Total Current Assets	\$304,706
Non-Current Assets	
Property and equipment, net	\$57,361
Right of use – operating lease, net	\$174,972
Total Non-Current Assets	\$232,333
Total Assets	\$537,039

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities		Net Assets	
Accounts payable	\$51,406	Net assets without donor restrictions	\$100,281
Accrued expenses	\$15,010	Net assets with donor restrictions	\$190,077
Current operating lease liability	\$88,609	Total Net Assets	\$290,358
Total Current Liabilities	\$155,025	Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$537,039
Long-term Liabilities			
Long-term operating lease liabilities	\$91,656		
Total Long-term Liabilities	\$91,656		
Total Liabilities	\$246,681		

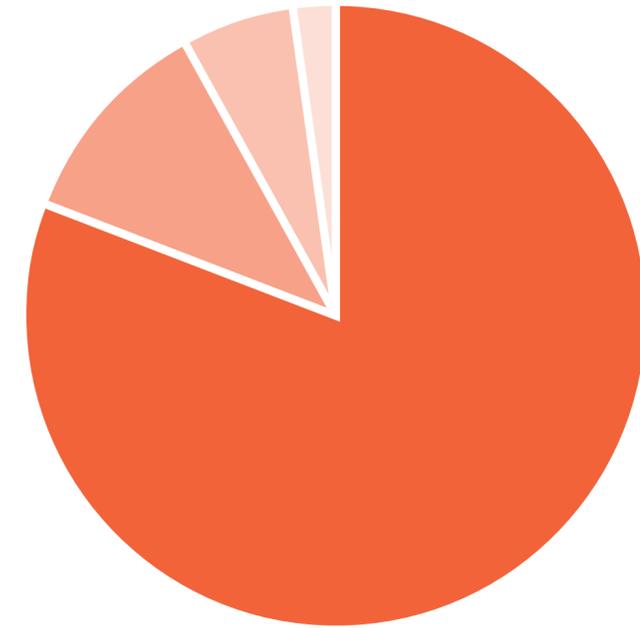
For a copy of our most recent audit, please contact the Alliance offices.

2024 FINANCIALS

REVENUE

Grants & Contributions	\$992,044 (81%)
Fees for Service	\$133,298 (11%)
Membership Dues	\$71,475 (6%)
Other	\$24,131 (2%)

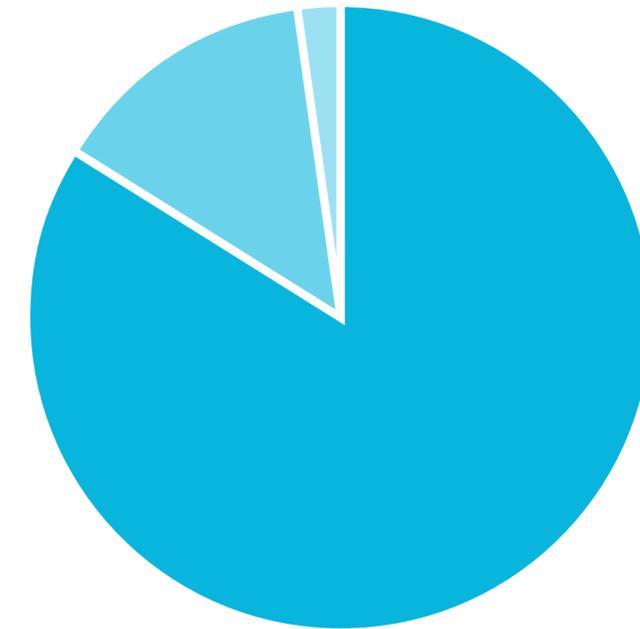
\$1,220,948



EXPENSES

Programs	\$1,429,340 (84%)
Management/General	\$244,387 (15%)
Resource Development	\$23,050 (1%)

\$1,696,777





**MISSISSIPPI
ALLIANCE**
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AND PHILANTHROPY**