COLORADO COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT




# 2025 IMPACT REPORT

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# Message from the Executive Director

2025 challenged long held beliefs for the nation and the work of survivor advocates.

Values fundamental to services for survivors were threatened through the dismantling of systems, erasure of knowledge, and silencing of dissent. These threats were designed to make us afraid to speak our truths and support our neighbors. Amidst this chaos, individuals and organizations were pushed to make difficult decisions and reflect upon what truly is most important.

CCASA, like many nonprofits, had to make heart-breaking choices, such as laying off staff, because of funding uncertainties like federal grant funding "pauses" and delays. In our discussions, CCASA's board and staff recommitted to our values of anti-oppression, social change, centering survivors, respect, accountability, and collaboration, which continued to guide our work.

CCASA joined **two lawsuits** to challenge new federal grant conditions restricting services based on gender identity and immigration status in key funding administered through the U.S. Departments of Justice, Health and Human Services, and Housing and Urban Development for services for victims of sexual and domestic violence.

CCASA hosted a **town hall** to provide survivors with the opportunity to speak with governmental leader and highlight the human impact of the Colorado Bureau of Investigation's "rape kit backlog."

CCASA hosted the **Roots of Change Conference**, the first of its kind in Colorado to bring together those who work on sexual violence, sexual health promotion, and social justice issues so all people have a fair and full opportunity to be as healthy as possible.

CCASA continued our core work of providing training, technical assistance, and resources; participating on statewide boards and committees and advocating for legislative changes to improve systems' responses to and efforts to prevent sexual violence; and raising awareness and support for survivors through Colorado Denim Day.

We are inspired by the resilience of survivors and we continue to hope that, someday, survivors will not have to carry the burden of fighting for compassion and change.

We are grateful for the ongoing support of our community and for the funders that have stepped up to help us continue this important work.



Brie Franklin
Executive Director

# Statewide Impact

**44** trainings

**1,369** individuals trained

Webinars

Online Learning Center

Sexual Assault Advocate Training Institute

Instituto de Capacitación Para Asesores de Asalto Sexual

**218** requests for technical assistance

**5,093** publications/ resources distributed

New, free online training "Restorative & Transformative Practices Primer for Advocates"

**Learning Communities**

Sexual Assault Response Teams

Restorative and Transformative Justice

Post-Conviction Victim Advocacy

**YouHaveTheRightCO.org**

(informatoin & resources for survivors)

**31,000+** users

**56,000+** views

ROOTS OF CHANGE CONFERENCE

Hosted by: CCASA

**2.5** days
**200+** attendees
**30+** workshops

The Roots of Change Conference is the first of its kind in Colorado to bring together those who work on sexual violence, sexual health promotion, and social justice issues so all people have a fair and full opportunity to be as healthy as possible.

## Planning Committee Partners

- CO Dept of Public Health & Environment
- CO Office of Children, Youth & Families
- CO Sexual Health Initiative
- CO Coalition for Restorative Justice Practitioners
- Juniper Southern Colorado
- Rocky Mountain Victim Law Center
- UCHealth, Memorial Hospital, SANE/SAFE Project
- WINGS



Aishah Shahidah Simmons
Antirape Activist



Marlee Liss, Speaker
Survivor & Restorative Justice Advocates

Of conference attendees who completed the evaluation survey:

- **81%** said it enhanced their skills/knowledge to perform their advocacy/work functions
- **91%** said it helped them think about practical ways to apply what they learned
- **87%** said it increased their advocacy skills to better recognize, respond, and meet the needs of victims and survivors

## Thank You Sponsors!

CCRJP

Ariel IT
Business Professional — IT Experts

Colorado School of Mines | SHAPE

Office of Victim Assistance
University of Colorado Boulder

# Systems Impact

- Attorney General's Sexual Assault Response Review Board
- Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Network
- Colorado Bureau of Investigation Forensic Services Committee
- Colorado SANE/SAFE Project Advisory Committee
- Comprehensive Human Sexuality Education Oversight & Content Committees
- Crime Victim Services Funding Advisory Board
- Domestic Violence Program Funding Advisory Committee
- Ending Violence Against Women Project Advisory Committee
- Forensic Compliance Team
- Higher Education Sexual Misconduct Advisory Committee
- Human Trafficking Council
- Sex Offender Management Board
- CDPHE Sexual Violence Prevention Program Advisory Committee

# colorado denim day

## 4·30·25 CCASA





The Colorado Legislature's State and House Chambers both recognized and participated in CO Denim Day.

Since 2013, CCASA has hosted Colorado Denim Day in order to raise awareness about sexual assault, show support for survivors, and unite communities across Colorado in taking a stand against sexual violence. Colorado Denim Day aligns with Denim Day events across the world on the last Wednesday of April.

This year's theme "*Denim Isn't Always Denim*" says survivors deserve to be believed—not just despite what they wear, but regardless of who they are. Too often, biases around race, gender, sexuality, and ability determine whether someone is supported or silenced. It's time to break these barriers. Together, we can create a future free from sexual violence.

The history behind Denim Day traces back to a landmark case in 1997, where a court ruling shocked the world. The absurd notion that a victim's choice of clothing could somehow imply consent sparked outrage. In response, the women of the Italian legislature protested by wearing jeans, igniting a global movement that continues to grow stronger with each passing year.

## Thank You Sponsors!

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ALM Law
Law Mother
PufCreativ

# Public Policy Impact

**36** Bills Tracked

**26** Bills Supported

**16** Bills Testified On

**20** Bills Passed

## Priority Bills

CCASA actively advocated to ensure the successful passage of our top five priority bills this session.Through drafting language, engaging stakeholders, testifying, lobbying legislators, speaking to the media, and building grassroots support, CCASA strengthened protections, expanded options, and improved support for survivors across Colorado.

- HB 25-1185 Child Conceived from Sex Assault Court Proceedings
- HB 25-1138 Protect Victims in Civil Sex Misconduct Suits
- HB 25-1168 Housing Protections for Victim-Survivors
- SB 25-288 Intimate Digital Depictions Criminal & Civil Actions
- SB 25-304 Measures to Address Sexual Assault Kit Backlog






# Rape Kit Backlog Town Hall

CCASA, in partnership with Senator Mike Weissman, Representative Jenny Willford, and Representative Lorena Garcia, hosted a town hall meeting on March 3, 2025 to address the Colorado Bureau of Investigation's (CBI) devastating sexual assault evidence kit backlog.



More than 100 survivors, elected officials, advocates, and community members gathered in the Old Supreme Court Chambers at the Capitol and virtually to highlight the human impact of the backlog and examine systemic issues contributing to it.



The current backlog began bulding up in 2023 following staffing issues and the investigation into misconduct by a former CBI forensic laboratory scientist.

In response to the sexual assault evidence kit backlog, CCASA worked closely with legislative leaders and impacted survivors to pass SB 25-304 Measures to Address Sexual Assault Kit Backlog, sponsored by Senator Weissman and Representatives Willford and Froelich.

# National Impact




CCASA's Sexual Assault Response Program Manager and Restorative & Transformative Justice Initiatives Consultant presented at the **National Sexual Assault Conference** about CCASA's restorative and transformative justice work.



CCASA's Public Policy Director and Policy & Outreach Manager participated in the **National Advocacy Day** in Washington D.C.

## Federal Lawsuits

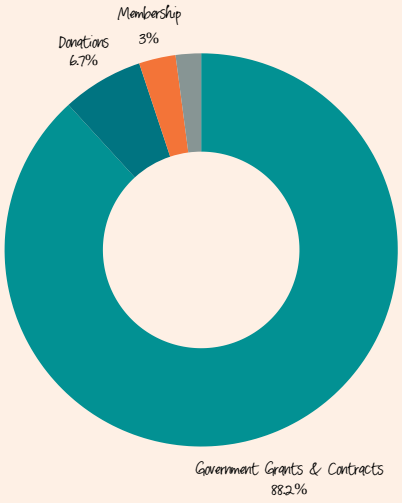
CCASA joined other state coalitions as well as youth and housing/ homelessness organizations in two lawsuits (***RICADV v. Blanche*** and ***RICADV v. Kennedy***) challenging new conditions requiring recipients of key federal grants supporting victim services to certify they are not supporting and will not support diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility programs, discuss "gender ideology," and serve undocumented immigrants, even when those services are required by law or essential to survivor care. Plaintiffs were granted preliminary injunctions in both cases.

*"The services we and our members provide are evidence-based, trauma-informed, and victim-centered. These new grant conditions are in direct conflict with best practices as well as existing federal statutes, requirements, and guidance that regulate these funds," said Brie Franklin, Executive Director of the Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Violence. "We will continue to work to ensure survivors, especially those most at-risk of experiencing violence, can access the services they need to be safe and are treated with dignity and respect."*

Plaintiffs in both cases were represented by Democracy Forward, Jacobson Lawyers Group PLLC, the Lawyers' Committee for Rhode Island, ACLU Foundation of RI, and National Women's Law Center.

# 2025 Mission Investment

## Funding Overview




| | |
|---|---|
| **Government Grants & Contracts** | |
| $1,214,408 | 88.2% |
| **Donations** | |
| $92,067 | 6.7% |
| **Membership Dues** | |
| $41,579 | 3% |
| **Other Income** | |
| $28,721 | 2% |

## Income Statement Overview

| Gross Revenue | Operating Expenses | Net Assets |
|---|---|---|
| $1,376,775 | $1,356,268 | $69,506 |

### Thank you to our supporters!

We are grateful for the support of individuals and our community as well as the following funders:

Colorado Division of Criminal Justice
Colorado Department of Human Services
US Department of Justice
US Department of Health and Human Services
The Patricia Crown Family
Rocky Mountain Health Foundation
Rose Community Foundation
Women's Foundation of Colorado

# CCASA Board & staff

## Board of Directors

Sareen Lambright Dale, Co-Chairperson
Shannon Collins, Co-Chairperson
Shelby Gonzales, Secretary
Kaleigh Holcomb, Treasurer
Jacquie Aamodt, Board Member
Michelle Lachner, Board Member
Suzy Shots, Board Member
Kirsten Taylor, Board Member

## Staff

Ash Arens, Data & Administrative Coordinator
Casey Ballinger, Survivor Justice Initiatives Director
Elaine Cho, Sexual Assault Services Program Director
Onnastasia Cole, Policy & Outreach Manager
Brie Franklin, Executive Director
Kathy Holland, Training & Resources Manager
Gina Lopez, Director of Training & Technical Assistance
Elizabeth Newman, Public Policy Director
Itzel Olivas, Rural Program Managerr
Lauren Sagendorph, Communications Manager

