ALLIANCE *for* CHILDREN'S RIGHTS



Impact Report

2025/2026

Table of Contents

03 A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO

04 OUR IMPACT

06 OUR PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

12 COMMUNITY EDUCATION & TRAINING

14 SYSTEMS CHANGE ADVOCACY

16 A TALE OF TWO SIBLINGS: Maya and Elijah

18 A VILLAGE THAT SHOWS UP: Chris

20 THE FUTURE WE'RE BUILDING TOGETHER

22 A YEAR IN REVIEW

24 FINANCIALS AT A GLANCE

26 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

28 OUR PRO BONO PARTNERS

30 A CONVERSATION WITH MITCH KAPLAN

32 OUR SUPPORTERS



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO:

I am proud to share the Alliance for Children's Rights' 2025–2026 Impact Report with you. These pages tell the story of a community choosing to stand with young people through some of life's greatest challenges. They show what is possible when direct legal representation, social work, and policy advocacy come together.

Every day, we see the life-changing impact of this work. Youth facing overwhelming barriers gain access to education, healthcare, housing, and career opportunity. Children find loving, permanent families through adoption out of foster care. Families receive the support they need to remain strong. These individual success stories also become lasting investments in stronger communities and in generations whose lives are forever changed.

When last year brought new and growing pressures for children in foster care and guardianships across Los Angeles, we helped young people and families navigate increasingly complex systems to secure the services they needed. Our reimagined Children's Court and Guardianship Program helped families caught between legal systems understand their options and access the resources available to them. Our expanded social work team partnered with caregiving families to avert crises and sustain secure, loving homes.

And when the threat of separation by immigration authorities added another layer of instability for some families, we stood beside babies, toddlers, and school-aged children, ensuring they could remain safely with caring relatives. We also co-sponsored the Family Preparedness Plan Act, creating a new pathway for temporary joint guardianship for families separated by immigration actions, hospitalization, incarceration, or military deployment. With this protection, parents now can ensure their children are cared for by loved ones without giving up their parental rights. Families can plan for the unthinkable with dignity rather than fear. Pairing direct services with systems change, we're meeting urgent needs today while working toward a future where more families are thriving.

The year ahead will demand even more of us. We will meet the moment guided by the same belief that has shaped our work for more than 30 years: every child deserves safety, opportunity, and the support they need to thrive.

To our clients who trust us with their stories, and to our Board of Directors, staff, partners, volunteers, and donors: thank you. Our Alliance is what makes this work possible.

As you read through this report, I hope you see the profound difference your support creates—and the future we can continue building together.

In community,



Jennifer L. Braun
President & CEO



Our Impact

180,000+
children, teens, and families served since 1992

This year, the Alliance

Advocated for
5,700+
children and caregivers impacted by foster care and guardianship

Trained
7,500+
providers, partners, youth, and caregivers

Los Angeles County has the largest population of babies, children, and young adults in foster care in the country—**nearly 18,000 young people in its system,** and hundreds more at risk of entering it.

Our Mission

Our mission is to protect the rights of children in poverty and those overcoming abuse and neglect by delivering free legal services, supportive programs, and systemic solutions.

Legal and Social Services

Community Education and Training

Systems Change

Why Legal Aid Matters

Nearly
75%
of low-income families face at least one serious civil legal issue each year including barriers to healthcare, education, housing, and the family's stability.

53%
don't know if they could find or afford a lawyer if they need one.

The Alliance steps in with proactive interventions, immediate crisis response, and ongoing support by providing free legal services and advocacy to protect the rights of young people and support the families who sustain them.

Brighter Futures

Connecting youth to early interventions and legal services reduces the likelihood they will enter more expensive and reactive public systems later.

More than
4,000
youth in California age out of foster care each year, including 1,000 in Los Angeles County.

By age 24
50%
of young people exiting foster care in California experience homelessness, incarceration, or poverty.

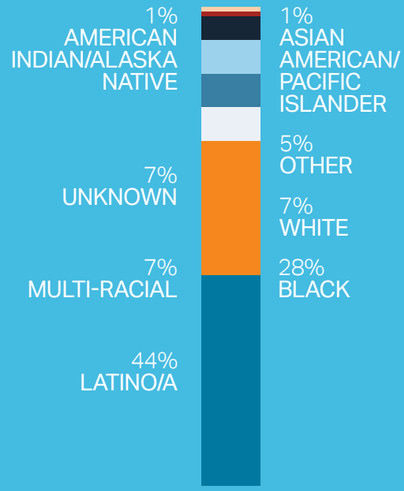
California spends over
$127,000
per person per year on incarceration alone—not including homelessness services, emergency healthcare, or lost tax revenue.

A Holistic Approach

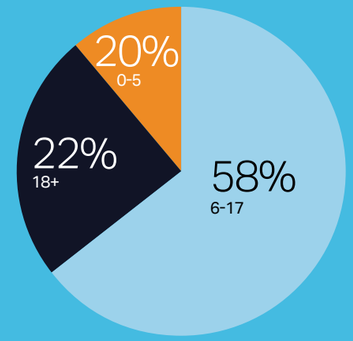
The Alliance is distinguished by its capacity to address legal, social, educational, health, and housing needs together, rather than in isolation. **1 in 6** of our clients received services from multiple Alliance programs last year.

Who We Serve

Race & Ethnicity



Age Breakdown



Special Needs

1 in 3 of our clients have identified disabilities, and many more are navigating undiagnosed or undisclosed medical, learning, or behavioral challenges.

Foster youth require special education services at rates **4X higher** than the general student population.

Adoptions from Foster Care

The Alliance completed over **500 adoptions out of foster care**, giving young people lasting family and security, along with holistic assessments to support their stability going forward. We provide representation for more than **25% of all adoptions from foster care in LA County**. In 2025, the Alliance completed roughly **10% of all adoptions from foster care in the State of California.**





"Providing information to clients at the earliest stages empowers them to have agency and control in legal situations that are overwhelming and unknown.

Equipping caregivers and youth with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions can change the trajectory of a child's life for the better.

JUAN V. GUZMAN

Director, Children's Court and Guardianship Program

Children's Court and Guardianship

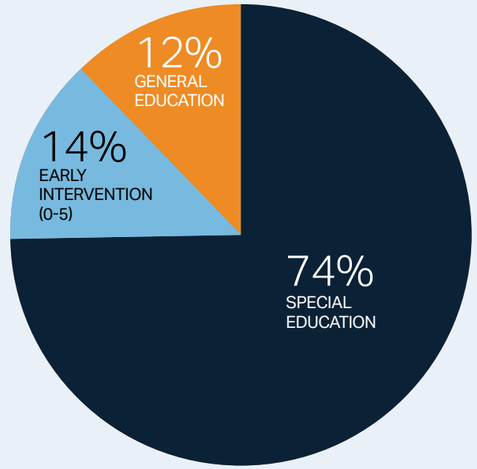
This year, we merged our Children's Court and Guardianship programs to provide more comprehensive support. We worked with nearly **200 caregivers to help them secure guardianship** in the probate court, giving them the authority to secure education, medical care, and stability for the young people they're raising. We also supported over **150 caregivers and youth** navigating the complex, often isolating web of dependency, probate, and delinquency courts—including many in "hidden" foster care—and provided legal guidance on issues like informal placements, emancipation, and critical documentation.

Education & Special Education

This year, we supported nearly **500 clients**, from early childhood through high school, securing special education, therapies, and general education rights so they receive the services they need to succeed in school.

Through the **Saltz Family Early Intervention Advocacy Center**, and as the only legal aid office in Los Angeles to take on these cases, we also secured trauma-informed early intervention services for infants and toddlers during critical stages of their development.

Education Advocacy Cases





"Every child deserves the support they need to learn, grow, and graduate. Yet families often face complex school, regional center, foster care, and probation systems alone.

Our education rights attorneys bring highly specialized legal expertise and trauma-informed advocacy to help children and youth access early intervention services, special education, and a stronger path forward."

JILL ROWLAND

Director, Education Program

Benefits Access

Through our Public Benefits Program, the Alliance helped over **550 caregivers access support to provide stable homes**. This year alone, we secured over **$2 million in wrongfully denied public benefits** and specialized foster care funding, ensuring children and young adults could access developmental therapies and other essential resources.

Healthcare Advocacy

Our team advocated for over **200 children and teens, removing barriers to critical physical and mental healthcare** and helping clients with disabilities access benefits and services. We also advocated for youth to receive Supplemental Security Income, as an essential safety net for youth with disabilities.

Our medical-legal partnership with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Outpatient Center's Pediatric Hub Clinic continues to reach youth and caregivers in our community with proactive interventions when they first enter our child welfare system, rather than struggling through crises on their own.

Caregiver Support Initiative

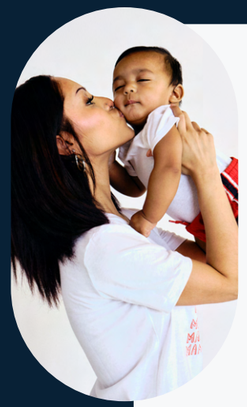
Our team of social workers provided **proactive case management to over 300 caregivers and over 650 children**, ensuring families received both immediate essential resources and ongoing core supports. Through **more than 500 grants to clients worth over $450,000**, we helped strengthen and stabilize homes for caregiving families and the children they are raising.

A recent evaluation of this pilot program found our Caregiver Support Initiative's relational, empathetic approach provides caregiving families with both immediate support and lasting empowerment—building a trusted bridge for families.



Special Thanks to THE CHANGE REACTION

whose generous support allows us to stabilize families in crisis, and equip them with the tools, early resources, and guidance they need to provide safe, loving homes. Being able to help caregivers with comprehensive case management, earlier in their journeys in the child welfare system, has made a profound difference in maintaining stability and creating opportunities for our clients.



> The Alliance of Moms became a part of my story because there are multiple young women like me who have babies and are also in the system. I am not alone, and I can achieve more than I believe.

DESTINEE
Client and Mother

Healthy Teen Families

Through our Healthy Teen Families program, advocates supported **over 200 expectant and parenting youth** and their children through individualized advocacy, case coordination, and connections to healthcare, childcare, parenting resources, housing, public benefits, education, employment, and other essential supports.

We provided these young parents and their children with **two-generational, community-based support**, linking families to resources through a multidisciplinary team. The program works across systems to strengthen family stability, address barriers facing young families impacted by foster care, and help break the cycle of intergenerational involvement in the child welfare system.

ALLIANCE OF MOMS

The Alliance of Moms is **a community of philanthropists committed to supporting expectant and parenting youth impacted by foster care** and their children. Through fundraising, in-kind support, and collaboration with the Alliance for Children's Rights' Healthy Teen Families program on workshops and special events, this community helps expand resources and opportunities for young families.

In Los Angeles County, **50% of young women in foster care experience at least one pregnancy by age 19**, and their children face an increased risk of entering foster care themselves. The Alliance of Moms' philanthropic support helps strengthen resources available to young families as they build greater stability for themselves and their children.

With **80% of brain development occurring by age 3**, investing in young families early can have an impact across generations. The Alliance of Moms' support contributes to opportunities for both parents and children to thrive.

Parenting Education & Wellness

Raising Baby, our flagship event, is a day of interactive parenting education and workshops.
Day of Wellness offers expert-led workshops on self-care, self-esteem, and reproductive health. Alliance of Moms' members and volunteers create a supportive and empowering environment. Childcare is provided and all families go home with donated baby and household essentials.

#MAMA,THANKYOU Campaign

Our annual t-shirt campaign, held in honor of Mother's Day and National Foster Care Awareness Month, raises awareness and support for these resilient young parents and their families.

$90,000+ raised to support young parents impacted by foster care. More than **2,000 T-shirts and tote bags sold.**



> Every parent deserves to feel seen and supported, and that's exactly what the Alliance of Moms provides.

Membership matters because it provides steady, consistent support. Our donations fund social workers and lawyers who stand beside families, open doors to healthcare and housing, and keep Alliance of Moms workshops going strong.

KELLY ZAJFEN
Co-Founder, Alliance of Moms

◀ Become a member.

@allianceofmoms
Follow us on Instagram to learn more and get involved.

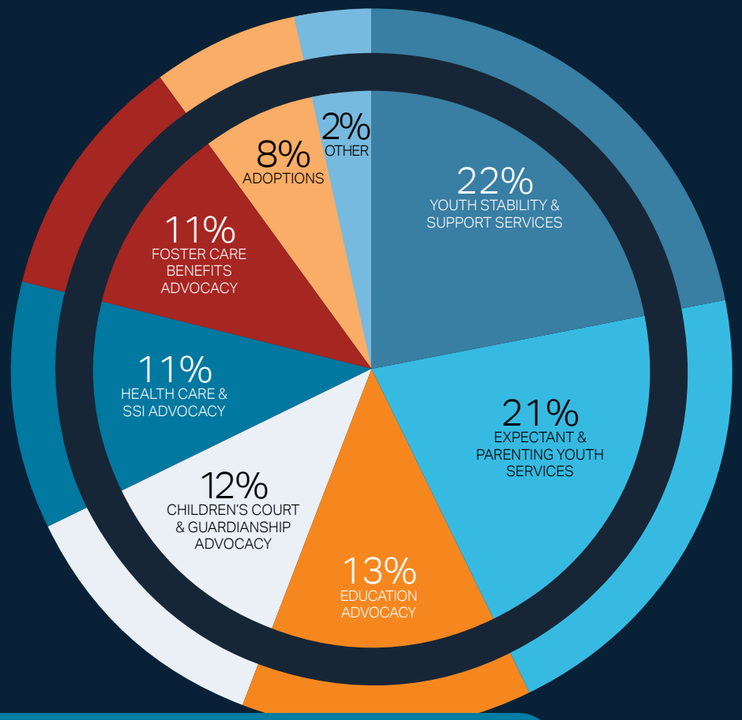
Transition Age Youth Services

We supported nearly **1,000** young people transitioning from foster care to adulthood, providing legal advocacy, guidance, and life skills training to help them build stable, independent futures—from clearing barriers to college and employment, to securing housing, healthcare, and public benefits.

Our life skills workshops prepare young people for independence and strengthen their pathways to college and careers, covering topics like goal setting, budgeting, securing housing, nutrition, stress management, healthcare, and healthy relationships.

Types of Services Provided to Transition Age Youth

Transition age youth are served across nearly every Alliance program, delivering a wide range of support for young people as they move toward adulthood.



Our deep gratitude to the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

for our partnership and the generous, thoughtful support of our work to empower young people.



Los Angeles Opportunity Youth Collaborative

The Alliance for Children's Rights is the backbone of the Los Angeles Opportunity Youth Collaborative (OYC)—a collective impact initiative with a coalition of **130 partners** working to ensure Opportunity Youth ages 16–24, who are disconnected from school and work or impacted by foster care, homelessness, or the justice system, can access education, training, and meaningful employment through a holistic approach to stability. Together, we're building the coordinated system Los Angeles needs: one that centers youth voice and lived experience.

This year, the OYC Young Leaders' work on the Director's Youth Advisory Council received a 2025 Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties—the only program across LA County's Department of Children and Family Services recognized this year. The award spotlights what the OYC Young Leaders have built: a fundamentally different way for Los Angeles County to support transition age youth.

The OYC's influence now reaches far beyond Los Angeles. In May 2025, we co-hosted the Aspen Institute's Opportunity Youth Forum, welcoming to LA **over 600 participants** from 40 member communities across the country and around the world. Five months later, a grant from the Aspen Forum for Community Solutions at the Aspen Institute sent our Young Leaders and staff to Brazil for the Global Opportunity Youth Network's international convening, where they stood with advocates from around the world and found that the barriers young people face—limited access, inequitable systems, decisions made without them—have no borders. Neither do the solutions. Brazil's integration of art, culture, healing, and workforce strategy offered a glimpse of what's possible when systems are built around the whole person, not just their case file.

The OYC's publications are also shaping how Los Angeles understands and responds to youth disconnection: our 2025 report on Opportunity Youth in Long Beach, and our partnership on Child Trends' report on Authentic Youth Engagement in Policy, both translated youth experience into the data policymakers need to act.

The OYC Young Leaders are more than

35

young people with lived experience driving advocacy and systems change from the inside

they led

25

convenings last year alone

reaching nearly

1,200

professionals and

175

youth partners, ensuring the people making decisions about youth are hearing directly from youth

Community Education and Training

Each year, the Alliance trains thousands of youth, caregivers, and professionals to ensure young people's rights are respected, champion systemic reform, and share best practices. We partner with youth and families with lived experience to shape our trainings and ensure their insights inform our work. Through our Education Rights Youth Cohort, young people receive training in public speaking, storytelling, and advocacy, then they use those skills to help peers understand and exercise their education rights.

We also provide practical life skills workshops, including Survival Saturdays, which help transition age youth build skills related to employment, housing, wellness, and financial stability.

This year, the Opportunity Youth Collaborative hosted more than 20 trainings and convenings, including a Long Beach event that combined local data insights with youth perspectives on pathways to opportunity. The Alliance also delivered statewide professional trainings for legal, social services, and education professionals, sharing knowledge and best practices to support children, youth, and families.

The Alliance hosts monthly policy webinars that bring together caregivers, youth, legal professionals, educators, social workers, agency staff, and other child welfare stakeholders. Featuring Alliance staff, partner agencies, and subject matter experts with lived experience, these webinars provide timely information, practical resources, and best practices on issues affecting children, youth, and families, including:

- **Education Rights**
- **Public Benefits**
- **Housing Stability**
- **Mental Health**
- **Permanency (e.g. Adoption and Guardianship)**
- **Emerging Child Welfare Policies and Practices**





Our Interns

The Alliance hosts more than **50 undergraduate, law school, and Master of Social Work interns** annually, offering in-depth training and structured supervision. Our interns receive hands-on experience in legal advocacy while our staff provide close supervision through mid-term and end-of-term evaluations, program meetings, formal check-ins, and career-related training. This summer, interns also benefited from enrichment activities such as guest speakers, game nights, and professional development workshops.

Legal aid internships **cultivate the next generation of public interest advocates**, offering students meaningful experiences with client-centered advocacy.

At a time when public interest law faces a growing talent shortage, these internships give students real exposure to systemic issues and the tangible, long-lasting impact legal services can make.

Our Intake

We holistically interview each client to address all their needs, not just their initial concerns. Working with our Attorney of the Day, our Intake team connects callers to our expert programs, guidance, and community resources.

Interns are especially instrumental in our Intake Department, which is the first point of entry for potential clients. Because many callers often reach us feeling drained from navigating complex, bureaucratic systems, our interns are trained to ensure clients' first interaction with the Alliance is calm, supportive, and as seamless as possible. Interns are supported by full-time Intake staff and lawyers from our various teams who serve as Attorney of the Day to provide legal expertise regarding callers' requests.

> This experience has solidified my interest in public interest law, specifically working with children and transition age youth.
>
> JESSE
> *Legal Intern, Alliance for Children's Rights*

Systems Change Advocacy

We work at the local and state levels to advocate for better policies and practices affecting youth impacted by the foster care, education, and juvenile justice systems, and the thousands of families who step up for them. We also facilitate opportunities for youth, parents, and caregivers to use their voices to inform change. In 2025, we successfully advocated for justice and equity for young people and families, to advance placement stability, housing stability, and education stability for youth. Our state and local campaigns elevated both issues and solutions:



Partnered with Public Counsel and the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA) to **co-sponsor AB 495** (C. Rodriguez), the **Family Preparedness Plan Act of 2025**. The Act strengthens family stability and promotes parent choice by requiring schools to implement the Attorney General's updated immigration-related policies; requiring the Attorney General to provide model policies limiting immigration enforcement action at daycare facilities and preschools; standardizing the use of Caregiver's Authorization Affidavits; and creating a new Joint Parent/Caregiver Guardianship, allowing parents facing long-term separations to designate a joint guardian while preserving their parental rights.

Published a comprehensive report, ***Supporting Their Journey: The Path to Racial Equity in Child Welfare for Transition Age Youth***, exploring the racial disparities and inequities faced by youth both in and exiting the foster care system and offering concrete recommendations for policy and practice change. Building on our prior work examining racial disproportionality at the point of system entry, the report examines how systemic factors, including implicit bias, socioeconomic inequality, and inadequate access to culturally responsive services, contribute to disparate outcomes in housing, education, permanency, employment, and behavioral health for transition age youth and details 58 recommendations to reduce those disparities.

Working with California Coalition for Youth and Children Now, we **successfully protected medical insurance coverage for foster youth and former foster youth** who may have faced Medi-Cal limitations based on their immigration status, preventing an enrollment freeze and monthly premium and ensuring continued coverage parity with other foster and former foster youth.

Surveyed resource family caregivers and youth across the state about their experiences with the youth assessment tool completed through county Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings, to inform recommendations on how to best engage caregivers and youth in county assessments and case planning.

Developed **seven information resource guides to assist transition age youth** in and exiting foster care with their transition to independent adulthood. Written to be informative and accessible, they offer practical guidance and resources in key areas affecting long-term stability and success, including banking and credit, higher education access and supports, preparation for employment, parenting resources, understanding the Foster Youth Bill of Rights, and accessing financial resources.

Coordinated and presented **over 25 policy webinars, conference presentations, community trainings, and stakeholder briefings, reaching more than 1,250 participants statewide** to promote understanding and implementation of child welfare policies and best practices. Trainings addressed a broad range of issues impacting children, youth, caregivers, and professionals, including family preparedness planning during family separation, educational rights for newcomer students and students in foster care, CalFresh access and other public benefits for youth in foster care, racial equity in child welfare, foster care permanency benefits and supports, placement stability for children, implementation of CFT and IP-CANS processes, supporting youth transitioning from foster care to adulthood, and state child welfare legislative and budget priorities.





A Tale of Two Siblings: **Maya and Elijah**

Danida and Jeffrey were on the verge of retirement when they stepped up to care for their grandchildren.

Maya and Elijah were born with serious medical needs, both requiring tube feeding, both unable to go home with their biological parents. Danida and Jeffrey didn't hesitate. They welcomed Maya into their home first, and not long afterward, her baby brother. What followed was a journey for two siblings with two very different paths into their grandparents' care, and one family's unwavering determination.

Maya's arrival in her grandparents' home was quiet—indeed, it was almost invisible. Rather than opening a dependency case, a social worker told Danida that she faced losing Maya to the system if she didn't take her then and there. This left Maya in "hidden foster care": when counties remove children from their parents and place them with relatives outside of traditional systems, without legal protections, medical coverage, or support services. Without an open child welfare case, Maya's insurance quickly lapsed, leaving Danida and Jeffrey responsible for medical bills associated with their granddaughter's care.

Elijah's path was different. Unlike Maya, Elijah was placed into foster care at birth. So when, at just five days old, he underwent open-heart surgery and needed ongoing therapies and specialists' care, he remained covered by Medi-Cal and eligible for the support available to him as a child in foster care.

Maya and Elijah had two very different starting points, but the same grandparents standing in their corner. For more than a year, Danida worked to move Maya's case from a guardianship petition in the probate court into the child welfare system and dependency court, so that Maya could access the coverage and support she needed. **Eventually, a social worker gave Danida a name that would change the family's path forward: Alliance for Children's Rights.**

"That's how it all got started," Danida says.

From there, the Alliance's advocacy touched nearly every part of the family's life. Through the Alliance's Children's Court and Guardianship Program, Danida and Jeffrey fought to get Maya transferred into the formal foster care system, finally securing the insurance coverage and support she had been denied. When the County later tried to shortchange the family on months of back pay owed for the children's care, the Alliance's Benefits Program made sure the record was corrected, and the family was paid in full, retroactively.

> It's affecting our lives, but we wouldn't trade it for the world. We love our grandkids.

Through the Alliance's Education Program, both children were connected to the early intervention and developmental services they needed—physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech and language therapy—and when Maya's case fell behind and she aged out of eligibility before receiving the services she was owed, the Alliance fought to secure her compensatory hours. She still receives that support today.

Our Healthcare Program's advocacy meant that even as the children moved between systems, their medical needs—therapies, surgeries, and specialist visits—were met without their grandparents having to navigate the system alone or absorb costs that were never theirs to bear.

And when the time came, the Alliance's legal team guided both adoptions through the courts together, helping two complex, separate cases move in tandem and helping the family avoid nearly $8,000 in adoption fees they could not otherwise have afforded.

"That portion was very scary," says Jeffrey. "But knowing that we had the Alliance helping us, and understanding what the next step would be, that made everything simpler."

Today, Maya and Elijah are thriving. Maya is a bright, curious four-year-old who knew her colors, shapes, and letter sounds before she turned two. Elijah, in his grandmother's words, has "the biggest, prettiest smile," and continues to defy the odds doctors once gave him, even as he prepares for another heart surgery this year. **Both children now have what every child deserves: a loving family and the freedom to simply be kids.**

"It's helped our family life so much," Danida says. "The Alliance for Children's Rights basically took away the stress of having to not only raise our grandkids and deal with all their medical issues, but the paperwork too."

For Danida, the lesson is simple. "Family is the most important. When you have that support, you feel like you can survive the tough things that happen in life."

> You guys were just wonderful. I mean, with everything—the IEP, the IFSP, the regional center, the adoptions, and fighting for the pay too.

A Village That Shows Up: **Chris**

"There's power in storytelling," Chris says. "It's one thing to know why something matters, but it hits differently when you can connect it to your own story. I share data and reports about youth workforce statistics, and then I'll share my lived experience, because this is valuable too."

As Chris pursues his Master of Social Work degree at Cal State Fullerton, he is a Young Leader with the LA Opportunity Youth Collaborative (OYC), backboned by the Alliance. As a Young Leader, Chris has spent the last two and a half years making sure young people with lived experience have a seat at the table where decisions about their lives are made.

His own story starts somewhere less certain.

Chris grew up in what we know as "hidden foster care," raised by his aunt while his older siblings moved through the formal foster system. For years, he didn't think his experience counted. "I never saw myself as a foster youth because I didn't go through the system," he says. It took staff at the Alliance and OYC, people like Brisia and Vinny, who mentored Chris and helped him understand that the systems that shaped his siblings' lives had shaped his too, and that his voice belongs in the rooms where decisions are being made about young people like him.

Earlier this year, Chris lost his job. Suddenly, a first-generation college graduate on track to become a therapist was facing housing insecurity. It is the kind of setback that derails careers, education, and hope. But Chris was not navigating it alone.

"Vinny's the reason I am housed," Chris says. "He connected me with a nonprofit that provided housing support for transition age youth. That was two years ago, and I've been here ever since."





> With the OYC, they don't put you to the side until they need you. At meetings, they want our young leaders to stand up. We are out there, showing we have value.



Chris with fellow OYC Young Leaders.

A web of relationships. A warm referral. Moments when someone picked up the phone. "The OYC has been in my corner. They've built my skills in discernment, coalition building, and understanding diverse viewpoints." That is the model Chris has been describing to local stakeholders and policymakers.

Chris points to the Alliance's Career Series as one more example of what it looks like when an organization cares. "They had professionals help us do mock interviews, talk about resume drafting, how to tailor your story in a way that's succinct and digestible," he says. The series paired him with an Alliance Board member, Susan Friedman, and pushed him to start documenting every panel, every training, every speaking engagement to which he'd contributed. "She said, that's your professional portfolio," Chris remembers. "The career series really taught me how to own my story. I'm not just Chris in grad school, but Chris with this breadth of experience."

Today, Chris is an active member of OYC Young Leaders, a collective action initiative to advance education and career opportunity for youth, spearheaded by the Alliance. He is a founding voice behind the Youth Mentoring Nexus, and a member of the Department of Children and Family Services' Director's Youth Advisory Council. He has represented the OYC in Alabama, in Washington, D.C., and on panels alongside child welfare professionals who once might have overlooked him. He co-authored *Systems Alone Do Not Create Opportunity—Relationships Do*, a report built on a simple but urgent idea: policy can open a door, but it takes a trusted person standing in it to help a young person walk through.

He describes himself as being in a "planting season," still building, still learning, still finding his footing in a difficult job market like so many young people his age. But he is doing it with a village beside him.

"I want to make the spaces better than how I found them for everybody."

The Future We're Building Together

I dream of a future where no young person ages out feeling the way I felt—lost. I dream that every foster youth has the mentoring, housing, education, and employment guidance to step into their power. With organizations like the Alliance leading the way, providing expert legal aid, social services, and relentless advocacy, we're making that vision real.

KA-LEAH MUCTHISON
CLIENT, ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS
YOUNG LEADER, LA OPPORTUNITY YOUTH COLLABORATIVE



Ka-Leah was our inspiring youth speaker at our 34th Annual Champions for Children event on March 19, 2026

A Year in Review



MAY 16, 2025

Raising Baby

Designed for young parents who've experienced foster care, Raising Baby brought 56 parents together for workshops spanning newborn care to raising school-aged children. Alliance of Moms' volunteers cared for 61 children so parents could fully participate. Every family left with donated gift bags of essential resources.



OCT 2, 2025

AB 495 Press Conference

The Alliance joined community partners to raise public support for the signing of AB 495, the Family Preparedness Plan Act. Championed by Assemblymember Celeste Rodriguez, this new legislation provides options when trusted family members and friends step in for parents facing sudden separation, keeping children out of foster care and closer to family. The bill was signed by the Governor on October 12, giving families the ability to prepare for times of crisis.



OCT 18, 2025

George Zajfen Tournament – Tennis for Tots

A heartfelt celebration in George's memory, the tournament raised $200,000 to fund the Alliance's work. Thank you to our hosts, Kelly, Julian, and Lily Zajfen, our supporters, and our Presenting Sponsors, Archewell Philanthropies and Ziffren Brittenham LLP, for their steadfast commitment to children and families.



NOV 22, 2025

National Adoption Day

More than 144 children and young adults left foster care behind on this National Adoption Day—made extra special thanks to the In-N-Out Burger Foundation providing lunch and helping to create a joyous day and lasting memories for these families.



NOV 23, 2025

Youth Thanksgiving

Transition age youth clients, past and present, gathered with Alliance staff, Board members, and friends for our annual Youth Thanksgiving—a dinner generously provided by Heirloom LA and a day of community, capped off with donated gift baskets of household essentials for every young guest.



FEB 21, 2026

Career Series

Pro bono partners and volunteers supported OYC Young Leaders through a guided networking lunch and mock interview sessions, giving young people who've faced barriers like foster care or housing instability the confidence, skills, and connections to open career doors.



MARCH 18, 2026

Caregiver Day at the Capitol

The Alliance and the California Alliance of Caregivers co-hosted the tenth annual Caregiver Day at the Capitol in Sacramento, bringing resource and adoptive parent caregivers together to learn about current child welfare policy priorities and engage directly with state leaders on issues impacting children and youth in foster care and the caregivers who support them.



MARCH 19, 2026

34TH Annual Champions for Children

Our Alliance community came together for our flagship dinner, a brilliant evening at the Beverly Wilshire. Hosted by Kumail Nanjiani with a performance by Christina Perri, the evening honored Katherine Pope (Sony Pictures Television Studios) with the Champion for Children Award, presented by Rhea Seehorn, as well as Kelly Zajfen (Co-Founder, Alliance of Moms) with the Francis M. Wheat Community Service Award, presented by Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, raising more than $1.4 million for the Alliance to provide free services and advocacy.

Financials at a Glance

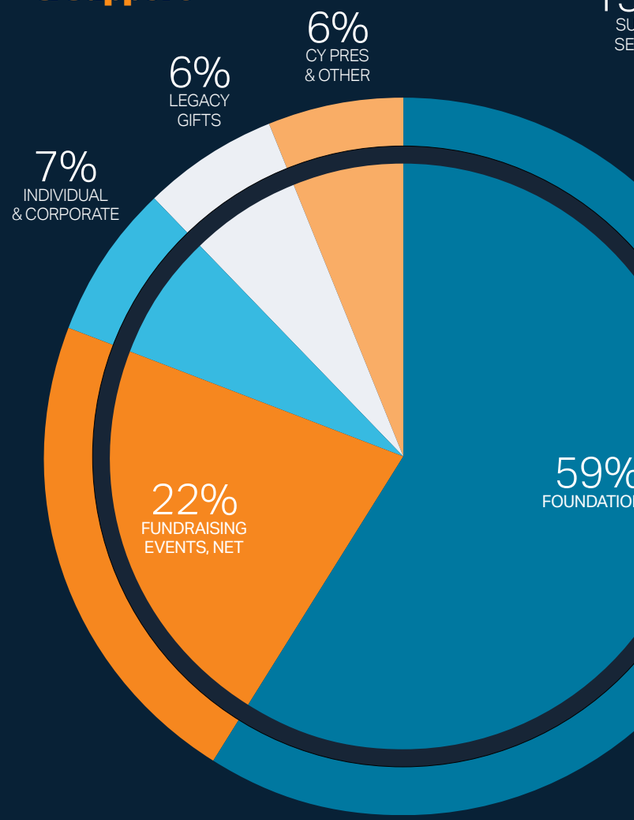
We are committed to ensuring that the generous contributions from our community effectively support our mission and serve our clients. As a recognized tax-exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the Alliance for Children's Rights strives to maintain transparency in our operations by making our financial information publicly accessible.

We are proud of our Charity Navigator 4-star rating, and Candid (formerly GuideStar) awarded us the Platinum Seal of Transparency for demonstrating strong financial health and accountability.

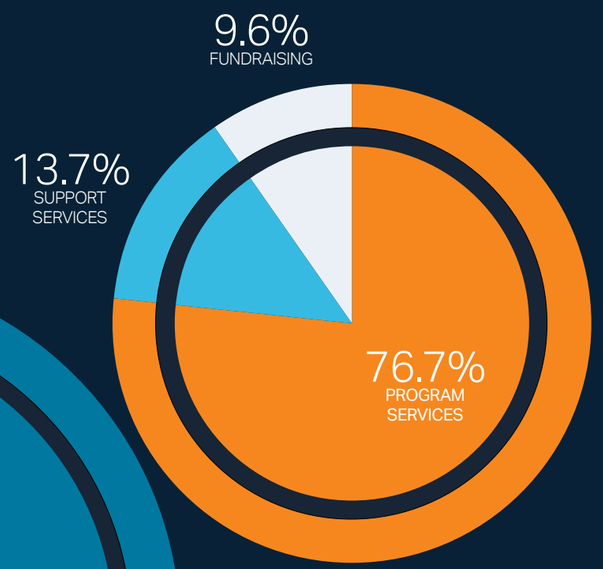
Platinum Transparency 2025 Candid.

Charity Navigator FOUR-STAR

Operating Revenue & Support



Total Programmatic Efficiency



Financial Summary

for FY2026 with FY2025 comparison

		2026	2025
Revenue and Support	Contributed legal services and in-kind contributions*	$18,524,791	$17,154,207
	Contributions and grants	$10,035,511	$13,666,926
	Fundraising events, net	$2,796,134	$137,932
	Total Revenue and Support	**$31,356,436**	**$30,959,065**
Expenses	Program services	$28,185,645	$25,682,341
	Support services	$1,719,899	$1,487,766
	Fundraising	$1,206,259	$1,047,125
	Total Expenses	*$31,111,803*	*$28,217,232*
	Change in net assets from operations	$244,633	$2,741,833
	Net unrealized and realized investment income	$1,798,473	$995,598
	Change in Net Assets	**$2,043,106**	**$3,737,431**
Fundraising Summary	Fundraising expenses as a percentage of total operating expenses**	9.58%	9.47%
Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets Summary	Cash and cash equivalents ***	$4,908,564	$4,691,992
	Contributions and grants receivable	$3,882,201	$3,994,902
	Investments	$19,878,579	$18,904,332
	Prepaid expenses and other assets	$381,568	$512,237
	Furniture and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	$1,447,823	$1,589,591
	Operating lease right-of-use assets	$1,973,598	$2,388,362
	Total Assets	**$32,472,333**	**$32,081,416**
	Accounts payable and accrued expenses	$940,750	$1,009,949
	Agency payables	$195,000	$82,500
	Deferred revenue	$25,000	$1,324,471
	Operating lease liabilities	$2,430,434	$2,826,453
	Total liabilities	*$3,591,184*	*$5,243,373*
	Undesignated	$6,303,075	$3,847,951
	Board-designated	$7,100,000	$7,100,000
	Board-designated endowment	$4,000,000	$4,000,000
	Board-designated legacy gift fund	$3,600,000	$4,000,000
	With donor restrictions	$7,878,074	$7,890,092
	Total net assets	*$28,881,149*	*$26,838,043*
	Total Liabilities and Net Assets	**$32,472,333**	**$32,081,416**

***The Alliance recorded more than **26,729 hours** of contributed legal services donated by law firms, attorneys, and paralegals for the fiscal year ending in March 31, 2026. The estimated fair value of these services was $18,524,791.

****Total operating expenses exclude contributed legal services and in-kind contributions.

*****Cash and cash equivalents include cash held in money market accounts and highly liquid investments purchased with an average maturity of six months or less.

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The breadth of the Alliance's work constantly inspires me.

We secure early intervention services for babies, help students access education, equip youth with essential life skills, and open pathways to stable housing and meaningful employment. At every stage, our exceptional staff bring expertise and compassion to ensure children and families receive the right support at the right time—building a foundation for lasting stability, opportunity, and hope.

ALEX G. ROMAIN
Chair, Board of Directors

Welcoming Our Newest Board Members

We are proud to announce and welcome the newest members of the Alliance's Board of Directors, who bring a wealth of expertise, leadership, and passion to our organization.



JONATHAN ANSCHELL
Mattel, Inc.



MARY ANN TODD
BDT & MSD Partners



ALLY WALKER
Actress, Writer, and Filmmaker

Our Pro Bono Partners

The Alliance coordinated more than

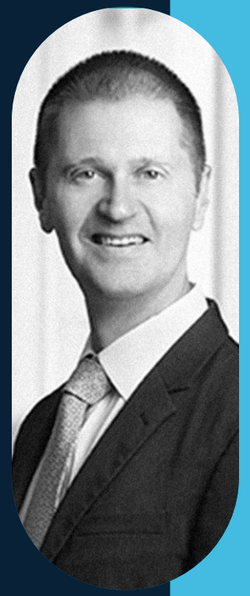
26,729

hours of pro bono work totaling over

$18M

in expert legal services for our clients.*





> We at Akin are honored to partner with the Alliance to help ease the burden on children and families who have already been through so much.
>
> **This summer, we expanded our support to include guardianship cases alongside our longstanding work on foster care adoptions. We continue to be inspired by the impact this work has on the lives of our clients and attorneys at all levels, from partners to summer associates.**
>
> WILLIAM K. WETMORE
> *Partner, Akin*

**Calculated hours reflect the 2025 calendar year, and not the fiscal year.*

Together with legal teams from across our city, the Alliance provided expert legal representation to advance justice for young people. **Our gratitude to the partners and firms who are directly impacting the lives of children, young adults, and families.**

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A Conversation with **Mitch Kaplan**

For nearly three decades, Mitch Kaplan has served on the Board of the Alliance for Children's Rights as one of our most steadfast and deeply cherished champions. Alongside his wife, Marilyn Jones, he has shown up for children and families in countless ways. We sat down with Mitch to reflect on what first drew him to this work, the impact he's witnessed, and the sense of responsibility that continues to guide his commitment.

Let's start at the beginning. When you first connected with the Alliance in 1998, what drew you to this work?

Mitch: One thing I've always felt is that children are an unrepresented constituency. There's no child advocating for other children.

There are plenty of groups that help children, but kids in foster care are one step further removed. Some don't have parents or even relatives involved. Trying to find a place for them to live, grow, and be safe is a very important thing to do.

You've seen the Alliance change a lot since then. What stands out to you?

Mitch: We can help so many more children and families than we could back then. We've even been able to have an impact far beyond Los Angeles. National Adoption Day, which began at the Alliance, grew into a national movement.

One of the changes we really loved was the expansion of Alliance programs for youth ages 18 to 24. When we first got involved, Marilyn and I would talk about what happened when young people left foster care. That's the time when people make decisions that can be monumental for the rest of their lives.

Teaching someone how to write a resume, fill out a work application, get a driver's license, sign a lease. Those are all things parents would normally help with, and where the Alliance can make a real difference.

I've also noticed how many former clients come back and work here or go into social work. They want to make sure somebody else benefits from the same support they did.

To me, that shows the impact.

> "I'm proud to be associated with an organization that does such special, incredible work for children in Los Angeles.
>
> It's civic pride. It's helping kids.
>
> I have a responsibility to do it.



Mitch co-founded Tennis for Tots in 1999, helping launch a beloved Alliance tradition. More than two decades later, the tournament has raised over $2 million to support children and families.



Mitch and Marilyn at Champions for Children in 2019, where Mitch received the Francis M. Wheat Community Service Award.

You and Marilyn support the Alliance in so many ways. What keeps you showing up?

Mitch: When something's needed, we like to be asked. We are fortunate enough to do it, and it makes us feel good.

We donate through our donor-advised fund. And at the end of the year, we make the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from my retirement account. We donate to almost every event, basically.

A lot of charities you give to, you write a check to the "American Association of Whatever" and never really see the work. The Alliance is local. There is nothing like seeing the impact firsthand and being involved. National Adoption Day is a great example. Being on the Board has also expanded my friendships and given me a greater understanding of what's going on in the community.

I'm proud to be associated with an organization that does such special, incredible work for children in Los Angeles.

It's civic pride. It's helping kids.

I have a responsibility to do it.

You've also included the Alliance in your estate plans. What led you to make that decision?

Mitch: When Marilyn and I updated everything a couple of years ago, it seemed like a natural thing to do.

Just as we've wanted to provide for our family, we've also wanted to support the Alliance's future.

We've seen the Alliance grow, and we've seen what it can do for children and families. Unfortunately, there are always going to be children who need somebody looking out for them.

Every organization wants estate gifts. It's something to have in your pocket. The more people who do it, the more you know something's going to be coming. And it's basically as easy as checking a box.

Hopefully, the Alliance won't receive ours for a very long time, but it's nice to know there will be support for the future.

So, it was an easy decision.

When you think about the future, what are your hopes for the children and youth we serve?

Mitch: Obviously, I hope they succeed and are happy and that if they want to have a family, they have a safe and happy family.

I've seen enough over the years to know that's possible.

At the Annual Dinners, young people get up and talk about their journeys. It's amazing how they've changed their lives and had the strength and wherewithal to do it. Because it's not easy. Get a job. Find a place. Find a partner.

They take on those challenges, and the Alliance helps them.

▸ *To learn more about planned giving and other ways to support children and families, contact give@alliancecr.org.*

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Our deepest gratitude to this dedicated community of donors who contributed $100 or more between April 1, 2025 and March 31, 2026. This list recognizes gifts, new pledges, and gift installments made towards commitments from prior fiscal years.

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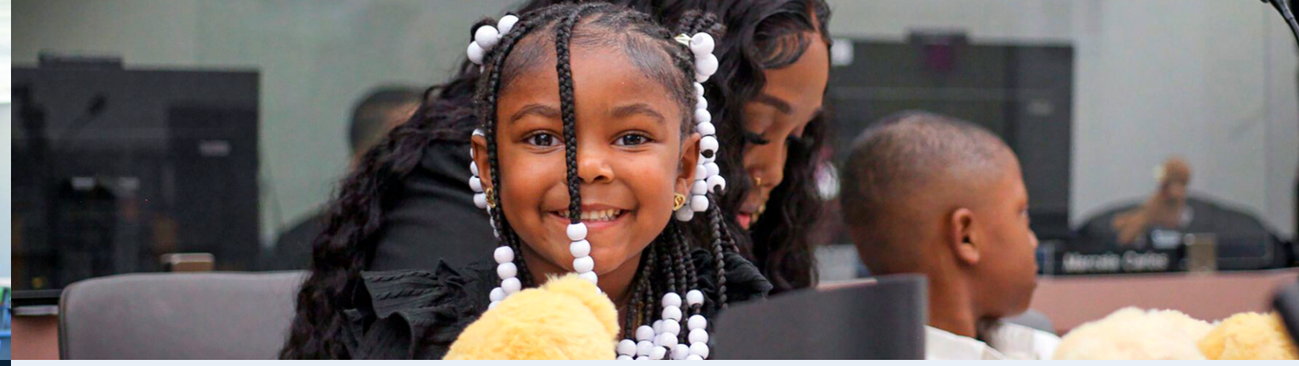


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