




AWE
Asylee Women Enterprise

2025 IMPACT REPORT





*A look at
AWE's impact,
programs, and
community in
2025*

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LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

This report reflects a year of change, adaptation, and community at AWE.

In 2025, our clients faced growing uncertainty as immigration policies shifted, humanitarian protections ended, and enforcement activities increased. In response, AWE adapted quickly—expanding legal support, increasing emergency assistance, strengthening access to physical and mental health care, and building a rapid-response program to meet emerging needs.

At the same time, our community continued to grow. Clients supported one another, volunteers shared their time and talents, partners stepped in to help, and donors made it possible for us to respond when our clients needed us most.

This report highlights what we accomplished together over the past year.

Thank you for being part of AWE's community and for helping make this work possible.

With gratitude,



Laura Brown
Executive Director

WHO WE ARE

OUR MISSION

We support asylum seekers and immigrant trafficking survivors as they navigate the immigration legal process, begin to heal from past trauma, and rebuild their lives in Maryland.

We seek a world where forced migrants have the support, opportunities, and rights to live with dignity, safety, and hope.

OUR VISION



OUR VALUES

Dignity

We believe each person's worth is inherent and complete, equal to our own, and worthy of the best we can give. We respect all people for who they are, what they believe in, and how they live their lives.

Community

We believe in the importance of building a caring and supportive community. By communicating and connecting with one another, we're able to achieve more than we could as individuals.

Solidarity

As we work towards a more welcoming world, we are dedicated to standing alongside people caught in the fundamentally unjust systems that currently exist.

Holistic Approach

We recognize that people's needs are interdependent, and we believe our work is most impactful when our services are integrated and holistic.

OUR SERVICES

We provide wraparound services so asylum seekers and trafficking survivors can access the resources and support they need to be safe, stable, and self-sufficient.

 CASE MANAGEMENT

 CLASSES & COMMUNITY

 PHYSICAL HEALTHCARE

 MENTAL HEALTHCARE

 YOUTH PROGRAMMING

 MATERIAL & FINANCIAL SUPPORT

 TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

 IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES

WHO WE SERVED IN 2025

In 2025, we provided holistic support to asylum seekers, trafficking survivors, and other forced migrants from around the world.

Through legal services, case management, healthcare partnerships, food assistance, classes, and community programs, clients accessed support to help them rebuild stability, safety, and community in Maryland.

383

clients accessed comprehensive services in 2025

OUR COMMUNITY AT A GLANCE



43
Countries represented



41%
Children



59%
Adults



“

When you are a newcomer the organization is essentially your family. They are all you have. They help you with whatever you need. I don't know what I would have done without your help and support and I don't think people would adapt to this country without you.

AWE client

“

When I first came here I didn't have anything - a home, nothing to eat, I was on the streets. But you made me feel at ease and able to feel like a person and myself again and that is the most important thing.

AWE client

IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES

13 

Know Your Rights Trainings

We provided trainings to help clients understand their rights, stay informed, and be more prepared during a time of so much fear and uncertainty.

100 

Immigration Legal Screenings

We met with clients to discuss their immigration status and identify potential legal pathways to safety and stability.

61 

Employment Authorization Applications Submitted

We helped clients apply for work authorization so they can legally work, meet their urgent needs, and provide for their families.

22 

Immigration Relief Applications Submitted

We worked with clients to prepare applications for asylum and other forms of humanitarian relief, helping them seek protection and a safer future.



MEETING THE MOMENT

In 2025, our clients faced growing uncertainty and new barriers to safety and stability as immigration policies changed and ICE enforcement increased.

In response, **we launched a Rapid Response Initiative** with our partners to provide coordinated legal, medical, mental health, and case management support. The initiative helps clients navigate emergencies and stay connected to the resources they need during times of uncertainty.

21 clients were accompanied by AWE staff to ICE check-ins & court hearings

“

We came here for safety and right now we have so much fear. You give us the accurate information and help us reduce our fear. The legal team is doing a good job. This meant a lot and gave me a lot of peace.

AWE client



HOUSING

In addition to rental assistance, AWE provided transitional housing to clients experiencing housing insecurity through an AWE-owned home and our partnership with the Reservoir Hill House of Peace.

21

clients resided in AWE transitional housing

4,647

nights of safe housing provided

HEALTH & WELLNESS



PHYSICAL HEALTHCARE

Through our partnership with HEAL, clients received a range of medical care services.

66

clients received **primary healthcare**

64

clients received **prescription medication** at no cost

21

clients were matched with teams of medical students for healthcare navigation support through the **Refugee Health Partnership**



MENTAL HEALTHCARE

All AWE clients had access to therapy through the Connection and HEAL.

82

clients received **individual therapy** including 70 adults and 12 children

104

clients participated in **group therapy** including 56 adults and 48 Spanish-speaking youth



They made me better again. They saved my life. They were so excellent and I thank them for my life.

AWE client



[My therapist] taught me to value myself as a person and how to channel my stress and depression and gave me tools to get through the difficulty.

AWE client



WELLNESS ACTIVITIES

50+

clients accessed **yoga, massage therapy, and acupuncture**



IT TAKES A VILLAGE

At AWE, healthcare and mental health services are provided in partnership with HEAL Refugee Health & Asylum Collaborative and the Intercultural Counseling Connection.

INTERCULTURAL COUNSELING CONNECTION

Provides individual and group therapy services through onsite clinicians and a network of contracted therapists. AWE and the Connection are co-located.



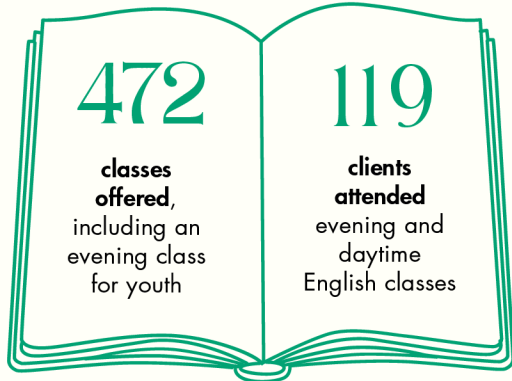
HEAL REFUGEE HEALTH & ASYLUM COLLABORATIVE

Provides primary care, women's health, mental health services for Spanish-speaking youth, and forensic physical and psychological evaluations. HEAL and AWE are partially co-located.



CLASSES & CONNECTION

ENGLISH CLASSES



“

I was so stressed and was always in my head about this. But the food and then the classes really helped my mind and helped distract me. The classes were a part of my healing.

AWE client

COMMUNITY MEALS



“

I came to Maryland alone. I didn't know anyone and when I ate it was by myself. I had no work. But I came to this place and we are all eating together, sharing food. I have made friends. The best thing was not feeling alone anymore.

AWE client

FIELD TRIPS



26

clients attended field trips to a Baltimore Orioles game, Druid Hill Park, and Washington, DC

OTHER CLASSES

107

clients attended other AWE classes including:

Healthy Relationships
Digital Literacy
Financial Literacy
Job Readiness

Parenting
Language Access
Know Your Rights
Art Workshops



YOUTH SERVICES

We served **49 teenagers and young adults** through **Steps to Success** - our youth program providing enrichment and psychosocial group activities for Spanish-speaking trafficking survivors and other forced migrant youth ages 15–25. Activities in 2025 included:

- English classes
- Bi-weekly group therapy
- Birthday celebrations and shared meals
- Parenting classes
- Field trips
- Youth Advisory Board participation

MENTORSHIP

8

clients received mentors through AWE's Community Mentor Program



IN-KIND & FINANCIAL SUPPORT

We distributed over **\$300,000 in cash assistance** and **\$250,000 in in-kind donations** so our clients could meet their basic needs with dignity.

In-Kind Donations



“

There has never been a Tuesday I come and you tell me there is no food - we know that every Tuesday we can come and have food for our table for our family that night. A bus card. You meet our basic needs and this is very good.

AWE client

Financial Support



\$121,967

Emergency Assistance

We covered emergency needs like groceries, utility bills, and clothing.



\$58,291

Rent

We provided rental assistance to help our clients avoid eviction.



\$48,263

Legal Fees

We helped clients pay application fees and attorney costs.



\$43,597

Transportation

We provided bus passes and ride shares to important appointments.



\$27,923

Gift Cards

We distributed gift cards for groceries and household items.



CLIENT LEADERSHIP

At AWE, clients help shape our programs, guide decision-making, and share their knowledge, talents, and perspectives with the broader community. Through a range of leadership opportunities, clients help ensure our services reflect the needs and priorities of the communities we serve.



YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

Eight (8) youth participated in two cohorts of **AWE's Youth Advisory Board** in 2025. Youth advisors provided feedback on programs and activities, identified community needs, and helped guide initiatives designed to support immigrant youth.



CLIENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

We launched a **Client Advisory Council** in 2025 to provide graduated adult clients with opportunities to share feedback on services and organizational priorities. Council members help ensure client perspectives remain central to our work.



CLIENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Through AWE's Client Ambassador Program, clients share their skills, experiences, and leadership with others. Ambassadors lead classes and activities, participate in outreach and media opportunities, and represent AWE within the broader community. Client-led activities in 2025 included:

- Cooking classes
- Origami for stress reduction workshop
- Participation in an academic study on childcare in Baltimore City
- Dance classes
- Cultural Exchange Day where clients shared about their culture, traditions, and histories
- Helped organize and distribute holiday gifts



COMMUNITY MURAL PROJECT

In 2025, members of AWE's youth program launched a community mural project designed to celebrate their stories, cultures, and experiences. Throughout the year, youth participated in workshops focused on art, design, and mural-making, working together to create a mural that reflects who they are, where they come from, and the communities they are building today.

The mural, titled *We Are Here: Our Colors, Our Stories, Our Community*, highlights the presence and contributions of immigrant communities in Baltimore. Installation of the mural is planned for Spring 2026 in Southeast Baltimore.



We wanted to leave our mark as a group. We wanted to tell the world: "We are here; we are Latinos."

AWE client & Youth Advisory Board member



WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE



OUR VOLUNTEERS

From cooking meals and delivering groceries to sorting donations and accompanying clients to ICE check-ins, volunteers made our work possible.

140 Volunteers
5,950 Hours donated



OUR STAFF & BOARD

Staff and board members brought passion, expertise, and commitment to our work every day, helping create a welcoming community for our clients.

20 Staff members
12 Board members



OUR DONORS

Through their generosity, donors helped make it possible for AWE to respond to clients' needs with flexibility, compassion, and care.

500+ Individuals donated
20 Foundations contributed

20+ Community & religious organizations donated
25 Groups organized food and toiletry drives

“

The best thing is the team when I go there. Even the volunteers feel like my friends. It is really a community and the best thing is sharing our time together.

AWE client

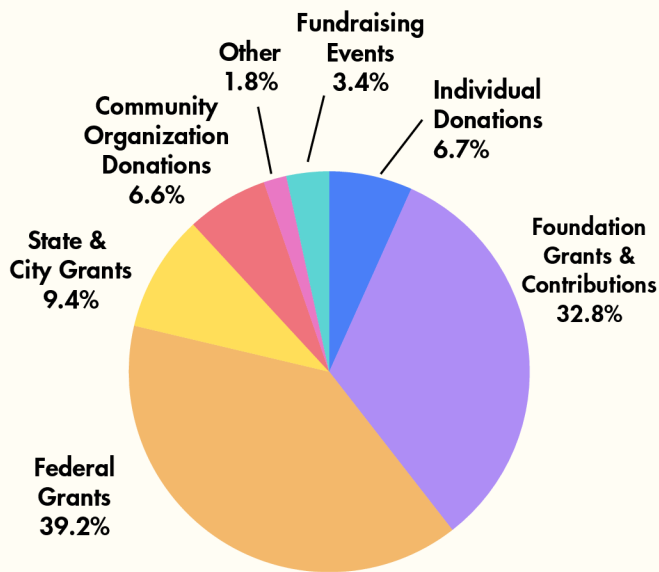
OUR PARTNERS

Community partners worked alongside AWE to provide services, resources, and opportunities that helped clients thrive.

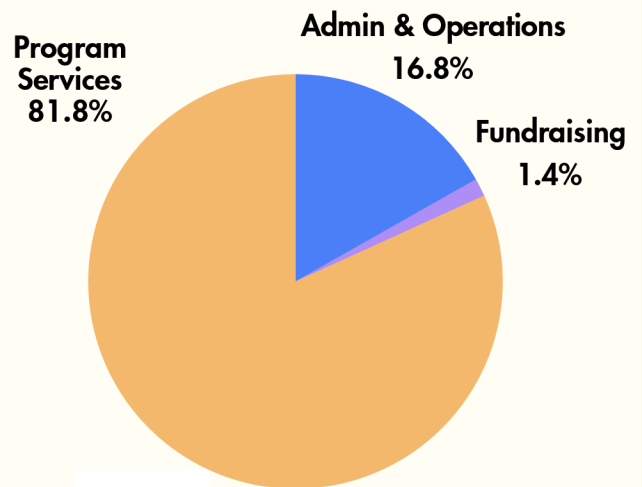


OUR FINANCES

REVENUE BY SOURCE*



EXPENSES BY FUNCTION*



82¢



of each dollar spent went to direct services

\$2,577,966



Expenses

\$2,883,485



Revenue*

*Numbers above are unaudited and will be updated as needed once AWE's 2025 audit is complete.

*In 2025 we secured \$420K in grant commitments that will be received and spent in 2026, and are thus not reflected above.

OUR FUNDERS



Abell Foundation
 Annie E. Casey Foundation
 Baltimore Community Foundation
 Baltimore Connect
 Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore
 Blanket Fort Foundation
 Blaustein Foundation
 Sisters of Bon Secours
 Dominican Sisters of Hope
 Earl & Darielle Linehan Fund
 Frank & Miriam Loveman Foundation

Goldseker Foundation
 Governor's Office of Crime Prevention & Policy
 Kirschman Family Fund
 MacFarland Willson Family Fund
 Mayor's Office for Neighborhood Safety & Engagement
 Miles White Beneficial Society
 Mission Helpers of Sacred Heart
 Office of Refugee Resettlement
 Office of Victims of Crime

PwC Foundation
 Richman Foundation
 Seedco
 Sherman Family Foundation
 Sisters of St. Joseph Mission Fund
 Smith Philanthropic Literacy Baord
 Straus Foundation
 Stulman Foundation
 US Comm. for Refugees & Immigrants
 Weinberg Foundation
 Zanyvl & Isabelle Krieger Fund



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