



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2025



# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**1 Executive Summary**

**3 Our Team**

**5 Legal Services**

**8 Policy & Advocacy**

**12 Resource Navigation**

**15 Strategic Plan Summary**

**17 Partnerships & Collaborations**

**18 Financial Overview**

**19 Our Supporters**

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## *Grounded In Equity, Growing Toward Justice*

### *Dear Supporters,*

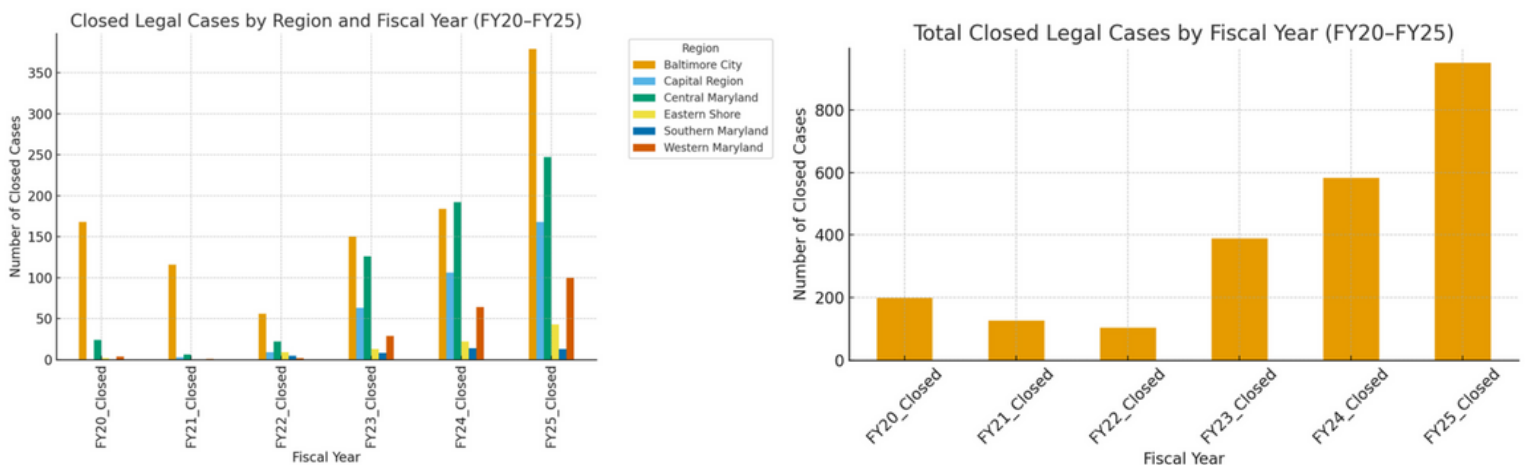
Fiscal year 2025 marked a period of transformation, resilience, and purpose for FreeState Justice. In a year defined by increasing hostility toward LGBTQ+ rights nationally, our organization deepened its commitment to protecting Maryland's LGBTQ+ communities—rooted in the belief that every person deserves to thrive. We expanded access to life-saving services, strengthened partnerships, and achieved landmark policy victories that advance equality nationwide.

At its core, FreeState Justice is driven by a simple but powerful belief: every LGBTQ+ person deserves to live safely, authentically, and free from discrimination. Our work remains deeply grounded in community and sustained by the trust of those we serve.

***Across Maryland, our team met people where they are—offering legal help, advocating for affirming laws, and connecting thousands to resources that foster stability and belonging.***

Between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025, FreeState Justice closed 972 legal cases, reflecting another year of significant statewide growth. This expansion underscores the strength of our roots and the deliberate, equity-driven strategies we've built to reach more Marylanders than ever before.

In 2022, we launched a statewide outreach model to bring legal clinics and community engagement to regions historically underserved by affirming legal support. Today, we provide direct legal services in 24 counties and Baltimore City, with strong growth in Western Maryland, the Eastern Shore, Southern Maryland, and the Capital Region. These efforts—supported by the Maryland Legal Services Corporation and key foundation partners—have redefined access to justice for LGBTQ+ Marylanders across the state.



***Beyond the courtroom, our Policy team achieved one of the most consequential victories in Maryland's LGBTQ+ history: passage of the Carlton R. Smith Jr. HIV Modernization Act, repealing Maryland's outdated HIV criminalization law.***

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This milestone represents years of collaboration with the Equality Federation, Maryland's HIV Decriminalization Coalition, and advocates whose lived experiences guided this work.

During the 2025 legislative session FreeState tracked 59 bills and provided testimony, research, and coalition leadership. We championed measures that expanded access to reproductive healthcare, extended tenant protections, and mandated anti-bias training for public officials. These efforts continue to shape Maryland's legal landscape—ensuring it reflects evidence-based policy and inclusive rights for all.

At the same time, our Resource Navigation Program became a critical lifeline for LGBTQ+ Marylanders facing housing instability, healthcare barriers, and growing fear in a polarized environment. In the past year, FreeState responded to 2,149 requests for support in housing, healthcare, and behavioral health services—including direct case management for 1,318 LGBTQ+ youth. These figures reflect more than numbers, they represent lives stabilized, families supported, and dignities restored.

This year, we also expanded into survivor case management, strengthening our ability to serve LGBTQ+ individuals experiencing violence or displacement.

***Through trauma-informed care, warm handoffs, and new partnerships with emergency housing providers, FreeState has become a trusted anchor for communities that too often fall through systemic gaps.***

Our impact continued to branch outward through public education and community partnerships. The FreeState Justice-led coalition, The Rainbow Roundtable, continues to bring together LGBTQ+ leaders from across Maryland to share resources, align policy agendas, and build local capacity. We deepened partnerships with BLAQ Equity Baltimore, SAGE, Chase Brexton Health Services, The Pride Center of Maryland, and numerous law firms and advocacy organizations—ensuring that LGBTQ+ Marylanders have comprehensive access to the tools and information they deserve.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the collective efforts of our staff, board, volunteers, and partners, or without the generosity of our donors and funders. Together, we have built a stronger, more sustainable organization—rooted in community and growing toward a future where all Marylanders can thrive.

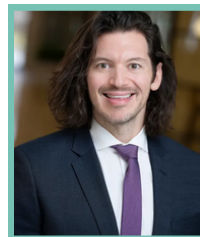
As we turn toward the implementation of our 2026–2028 Strategic Plan, FreeState Justice is poised to deepen its statewide reach, strengthen its financial foundation, and continue leading Maryland's movement for LGBTQ+ equality. The work ahead will build on the roots we have planted—expanding our reach, amplifying community voices, and ensuring every LGBTQ+ Marylander is safe, housed, healthy, and free to determine their own future.

## ***In Solidarity,***



**Phillip Westry, Esq.**  
*Executive Director*

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Phillip Westry Jr."



**Andrew Adelman, Esq.**  
*Board President*

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew Adelman".

# OUR TEAM

*Empowered By People*



**Phillip Westry, Esq.**  
(he/him)  
*Executive Director*



**Ronnie L. Taylor**  
(she/her)  
*Community Impact Director*



**Lauren Pruitt, Esq.**  
(she/her)  
*Legal Director*



**Matthew Dare**  
(he/him)  
*Staff Attorney*



**Amanda Donoghue**  
(they/them)  
*Staff Attorney*



**Trae' McWhite III**  
(she/her)  
*Program Coordinator*



**Joel Medina**  
(he/him)  
*Community Engagement &  
Development Manager*



**Nic Oke**  
(he/him)  
*HIV Policy  
Vanguard Fellow*



**Aubrey Boyd**  
(he/him)  
*Development &  
Communications Associate*

## INTERN TEAM



**Naomi Berhe**  
(she/her)  
*Communications Intern*



**Oliver Santos**  
(he/him)  
*Legal Intern*



**Mack Watkins**  
(they/them)  
*Legal Intern*

# BOARD AND INTERNS

## BOARD

**Andrew Adelman, Esq.**  
(he/him)  
President  
Correia & Puth PLLC

**Adam Farra, Esq.**  
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Vice-President  
Farra & Wang, PLLC

**Miller Douglas**  
(he/him)  
Treasurer  
Brown Advisory

**Lauren Fleming, Esq.**  
(she/her)  
Secretary  
Miles & Stockbridge

**Bonnie Smith**  
(she/her)  
Board Member  
Retired

**Ben Galloway**  
(he/him)  
Board Member  
Greenspring Advisors

**Lauren DiMartino**  
(she/her)  
Board Member  
Brown, Goldstein & Levy, LLP

**Tommy Lamont**  
(she/her)  
Board Member  
Retired

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(they/she)  
Board Member  
DMP Consulting

**Darien Nolin**  
(he/him)  
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Total Healthcare

**Shawn McIntosh**  
(she/her)  
Board Member  
Center for a  
Healthy Maryland

**Chris Uhl**  
(he/him)  
Board Member  
Sweet Spot Baltimore

**Andrew Ansel**  
(he/him)  
Board Member  
National Association of the Education of  
Young Children

**Kaitlyn Drake**  
(they/she)  
Board Member  
University of Maryland Francis King  
Carey School of Law

## INTERNS

**Taaj Maddox**  
(she/her)  
University of Baltimore,  
School of Law

**Natalie Maranto**  
(she/her)  
University of Maryland  
Francis King Carey  
School of Law

**Alexandra Efron**  
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University of Baltimore,  
School of Law

**Kellan Koch**  
(he/him)  
University of Baltimore,  
School of Law

**Danielle Basdekis**  
(she/her)  
University of Maryland  
Francis King Carey  
School of Law

**Anushka Dar**  
(she/her)  
Johns Hopkins  
Bloomberg School of  
Public Health

**Kyree Young**  
(he/him)  
Bard High School Early  
College

# LEGAL SERVICES

*Growing In Justice*

**Cases Closed: 972**

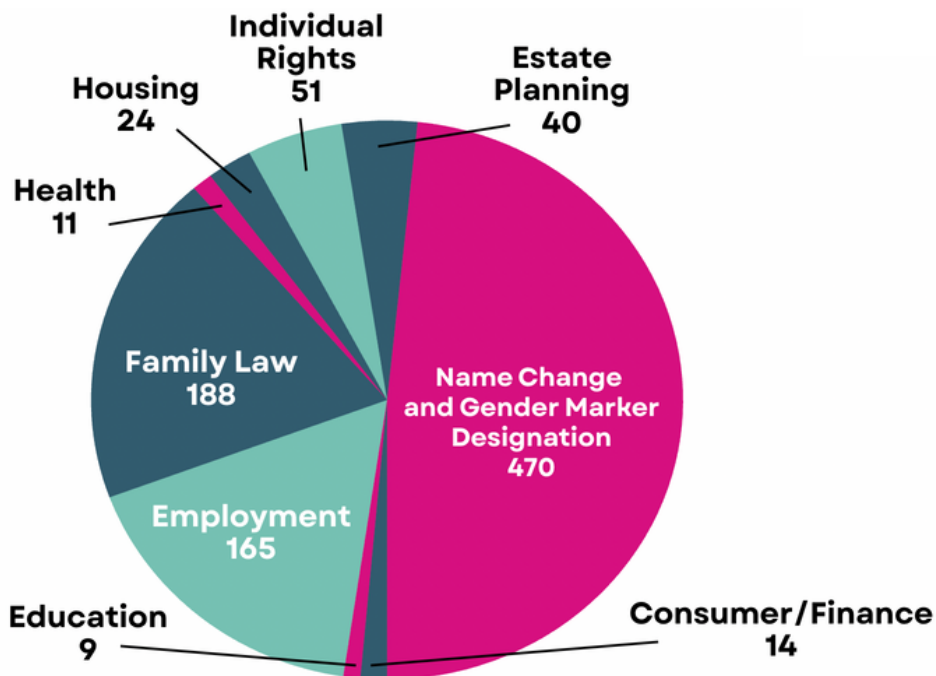
**Cases Opened: 709**

You Can  
Request  
Pro Bono  
Legal  
Services  
Here



SCAN HERE

Cases closed from  
July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

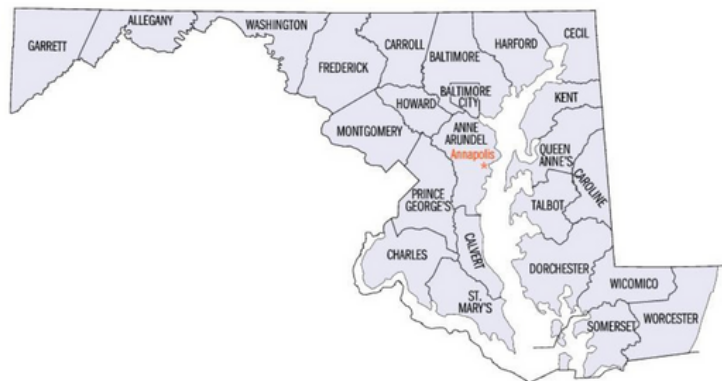


Over the past several years, FreeState Justice's pro bono legal services program has grown significantly in both scale and impact. Our ability to expand grew thanks to investment from partners like the Maryland Legal Services Corporation. With this support, we launched in-person legal clinics in Western Maryland and the Eastern Shore in 2023, where many LGBTQ+ residents have long faced barriers to legal help.

As a result of increased outreach, strategic funding, and targeted clinic expansion, FreeState Justice now serves more areas of Maryland than ever before. We've seen especially strong growth in Western Maryland, Southern Maryland, the Eastern Shore, and the Capital Region, areas that had previously been severely underserved when it came to affirming legal support. This expanded reach reflects our commitment to ensuring that LGBTQ+ people across the state can find the legal help they need.

## Breakdown of Clients Served by County

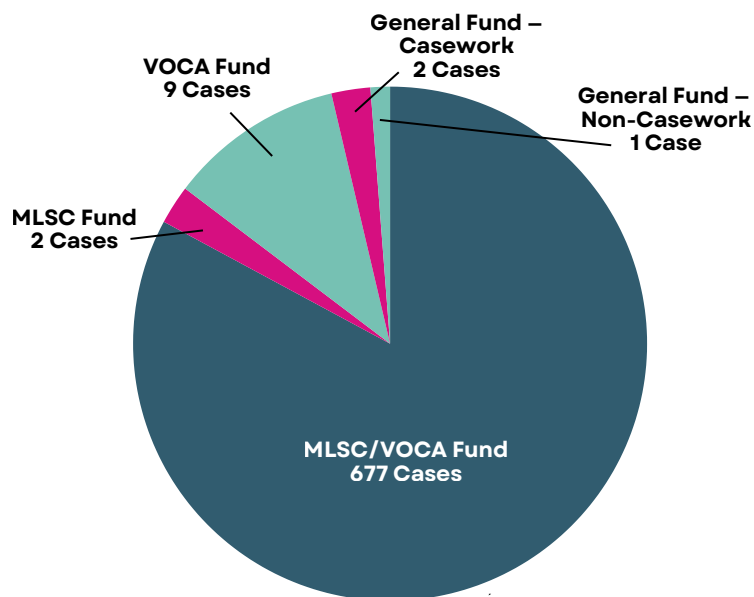
| County of Client Residence | Total | County of Client Residence | Total |
|----------------------------|-------|----------------------------|-------|
| Allegany County            | 27    | Harford County             | 29    |
| Anne Arundel County        | 52    | Howard County              | 39    |
| Baltimore City             | 379   | Kent County                | 1     |
| Baltimore County           | 114   | Montgomery County          | 102   |
| Calvert County             | 1     | Prince George's County     | 66    |
| Caroline County            | 4     | Queen Anne's County        | 6     |
| Carroll County             | 13    | St. Mary's County          | 4     |
| Cecil County               | 6     | Somerset County            | 1     |
| Charles County             | 8     | Talbot County              | 5     |
| Dorchester County          | 8     | Washington County          | 17    |
| Frederick County           | 51    | Wicomico County            | 8     |
| Garrett County             | 5     | Worcester County           | 4     |
| Non-Maryland               | 22    |                            |       |



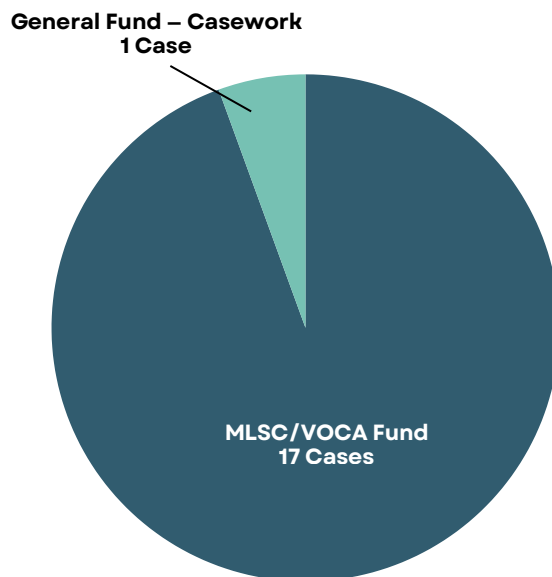
**FreeState Justice provided free legal services to 23 counties in Maryland!**

## CASES OPENED BY PLACEMENT AND FUND

### FreeState Justice Placement



### Pro Bono Placement



The Maryland Legal Services Corporation (MLSC) and the Maryland Victims of Crimes Act (VOCA) provide a majority of the vital funding that make FreeState Justice's pro bono legal services possible.

*A Message From*

## Lauren Pruitt, Esq.

*Legal Director*

Over the past year, FreeState Justice's legal team confronted rising anti-LGBTQ+ attacks nationwide. In response, we adapted our work to meet this hostile environment, intensifying advocacy against harmful laws and prioritizing cases that impact LGBTQ+ individuals and families.

We sharpened our litigation strategies to build stronger discrimination claims across healthcare, education, and employment. As an organizational plaintiff in a lawsuit against the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, we aim to set legal precedents that protect LGBTQ+ rights and ensure access to justice.

To present a united front, we strengthened partnerships with local and national LGBTQ+ organizations. Together, we shared resources and knowledge, enhancing our ability to tackle threats effectively. We organized Know Your Rights presentations, training workshops, and community forums to educate individuals and service providers about legal protections. Additionally, we partnered

with local law firms to provide thousands of hours of pro bono legal assistance.

Our legal team also provided resources and toolkits to empower LGBTQ+ individuals with vital information on navigating legal systems, reporting discrimination, and accessing support services. By spreading knowledge, we aim to foster resilience within our community.

Beyond legal work, we joined public awareness campaigns to counter negative narratives about LGBTQ+ people. Through social media, outreach, and educational programs, we promote understanding and challenge misinformation fueling discrimination.

*FreeState's Legal Team remains committed to advocating for LGBTQ+ rights with tenacity and compassion.*

Though challenges persist, our community's solidarity, visibility, and Maryland's legal protections empower us to fight for equality, justice, and protection more effectively than ever before.

# POLICY & ADVOCACY

*Cultivating Change*

## By The Numbers



In the 2025 Maryland Legislative Session, FreeState Justice tracked 59 Bills

## Posture Counts



Championed  
**1**



Supported  
**53**



Opposed  
**5**

Posture counts are a way for individuals and organizations to publicly support or oppose specific legislation. FreeState used them to strategically show support for bills while emphasizing how others would hurt LGBTQ+ Marylanders.

## LANDMARK OUTCOME

# REPEAL OF MARYLAND'S HIV CRIMINALIZATION LAW, THE CARLTON R. SMITH JR. HIV MODERNIZATION ACT

Maryland has repealed its HIV criminal offense law. The reform removes an outdated statute that criminalized people living with HIV and shifts from fear-based approaches to public health practices. Repealing the law aligns it with current scientific understanding, eliminating a barrier to testing by removing a criminal consequence associated with knowing one's status. It supports linkage to treatment by reducing the risk that disclosure and care engagement will be used against people living with HIV. It promotes stigma reduction by ending a law that was enforced unfairly and no longer aligns with modern prevention methods

like PrEP and treatment as prevention. The law was approved on May 20, 2025, and took effect on October 1, 2025. FreeState Justice led community education efforts, briefed lawmakers, centered lived experience, and coordinated a bipartisan strategy through both chambers.



## ADDITIONAL ENACTED MEASURES WITH MEASURABLE BENEFIT

During the 2025 Maryland General Assembly, FreeState's policy team worked diligently to support legislative initiatives that protect and uplift LGBTQ+ individuals. Our team advanced key priorities and secured several significant achievements:



### County Board Member Anti-Bias Training *HB0324*

Requires county school board members to complete anti-bias training once per term. Approved May 6, 2025; effective July 1, 2025. Strengthens local governance where LGBTQ+ youth protections are shaped and enforced.



### Public Health Abortion Grant Program *HB0930*

Establishes a grant fund to expand abortion access, effective July 1, 2025. Supports clinical stability and access, especially for safety-net providers serving LGBTQ+ and HIV-affected communities.



### Access to Counsel in Evictions *SB0154*

Extends \$14M annual funding for the Access to Counsel in Evictions Fund through FY2028. Effective June 1, 2025. On-site legal help reduces displacement and supports LGBTQ+ youth, elders, and people with HIV.

### Maryland Second Look Act *HB00853*



Lets people with 20+ years served petition for sentence reduction. Courts weigh maturity, rehabilitation, risk, and victim input. Approved April 22, 2025 (Chapter 96); effective October 1, 2025. It modifies severe sentences, reflects developmental science and reduces incarceration costs.

### Geriatric and Medical Parole *SB0181*



Requires Parole Commission to consider age, modernizing medical parole, removing gubernatorial veto, and setting timelines for reviews. Approved April 22, 2025 (Chapter 102); effective October 1, 2025. Supports fairer, fiscally responsible release decisions.

We're proud to celebrate these victories from the 2025 legislative session. These wins reflect years of collaboration and strategic organizing. Building on this momentum, our top legislative priority for 2026 is expanding access to PrEP—an essential tool to prevent HIV and promote health equity across Maryland.



**You Can Read the  
Full FreeState Justice  
Policy Report Here**



SCAN HERE



## Expanding Access to PrEP in Maryland

PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) access in Maryland remains inconsistent, even though it's covered by state law and insurance. Many face delays, unexpected costs, and limited availability. Prior authorization, slow same-day starts, and lab work often results in out-of-pocket charges, and pharmacies may not stock PrEP. Community clinics lack stable funding, and barriers are highest in rural areas and among Black and Brown communities, trans people, youth, and those without stable housing.

**In 2026, FreeState Justice will advocate for expanded PrEP access grounded in community experience: prioritize evidence and equity, protect zero-cost preventive care, reduce administrative delays, and align practices with current science. Transparent data systems are key to tracking progress and identifying gaps.**

Outreach will focus on communities most affected by HIV. Strategies include peer navigators, mobile and evening clinics, pharmacist prescribers in underserved areas, and multilingual materials. Flexible funding and targeted support will help address emerging equity needs.

### Elements Under Review

#### Pharmacist prescribing and same-day starts

Analysis is underway for a statewide protocol that would enable pharmacists to initiate and maintain PrEP. The review includes eligibility screening, immediate dispensing, documentation, telehealth use, reimbursement standards, and coordination with primary care or clinics when available.

#### Prior authorization and cost sharing for USPSTF Grade A and Grade B services

The team is evaluating ways to eliminate prior authorization and step therapy requirements for PrEP medication and related services in state-regulated markets. The review includes zero-cost coverage for visits, labs, and counseling tied to preventive service ratings, consistent definitions across carriers, enforcement tools, and swift resolution of complaints.

#### Lab coverage, follow-up visits, and rapid start support

Reviewing coverage for baseline and monitoring labs without cost sharing. The analysis includes starter packs, bridge fills, standing orders for rapid starts, navigator support for uninsured and underinsured clients, and connections between mobile testing and same-day initiation.

### Next Steps

- Conclude coalition feedback
- Finalize the framing memo with legal, clinical, and community partners
- Identify sponsors and timelines
- Prepare draft language for targeted sections while continuing stakeholder consultation
- Return to the General Assembly with a package that reflects evidence, equity, and operational feasibility

A Message From

## Ronnie L. Taylor

Community Impact Director

Maryland criminalized the alleged transfer or attempted transfer of HIV, tying criminal exposure to a health condition rather than to conduct that posed real risk. This discouraged testing and disclosure, disrupted care engagement, and made partner services more difficult. Enforcement was inconsistent: communities of color, transgender individuals, sex workers, people who use drugs, and those facing housing instability were disproportionately investigated and arrested. These patterns showed how the law deepened stigma and undermined prevention.

The General Assembly considered repeal bills in both chambers. Committee chairs held hearings and gathered written and oral testimony. Amendments aligned the text with current public health guidelines. Both chambers passed the final version via recorded votes. The Governor signed the Act on May 20, 2025, and it takes effect October 1, 2025.

FreeState Justice worked with legal, medical, and community partners to develop plain-language materials and respond to technical questions from legislators and staff. We prepared

testimony centering lived experiences and current science, supported community witnesses, aligned messages across organizations, briefed the press, and connected reporters with subject matter experts. This approach ensured consistent messaging and clear guidance as the bill moved through both chambers.

*Repeal brings the law in line with scientific understanding. It removes legal penalties tied to knowing one's HIV status, lowers the risk that disclosure or care engagement will be used against people living with HIV, and encourages same-day testing and faster care access.*

It strengthens treatment as prevention and improves PrEP availability. Anticipated outcomes include increased HIV testing, shorter time to first medical visit after diagnosis, higher viral suppression rates, and fewer arrests and prosecutions for alleged exposure.

Implementation will focus on communities most affected by the prior law. Outreach will target jurisdictions with high enforcement rates and populations with lower testing and suppression rates. Training for defenders and prosecutors will address the law's effective date, screening, and dismissal procedures. Clinical partners will reinforce disclosure counseling and treatment-as-prevention messaging. Community education will remain central to ensure people understand the law's impact and their rights.

# RESOURCE NAVIGATION

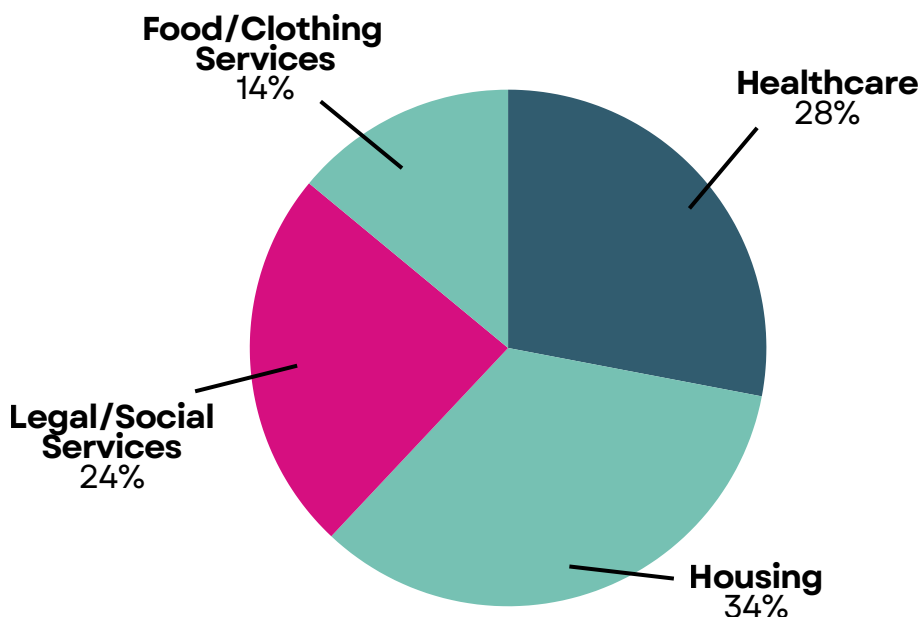
*Nourishing Community*

Access to safe, affirming services remains essential for LGBTQ+ Marylanders, especially amid growing fears of service rollbacks and discrimination in the current political climate. Despite Maryland's high LGBTQ+ population, systemic barriers continue to block access to housing, healthcare, and mental health support—particularly for trans people, youth, and communities of color.

**As attacks on LGBTQ+ rights continue, we remain committed to expanding this work, closing equity gaps, and ensuring that every person we serve has access to the support they need to survive and thrive.**

From July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, our team supported 1,318 LGBTQ+ youth and facilitated 2,149 referrals for care and support. The majority of those referrals were for basic needs such as food, clothing, and legal assistance, but housing and healthcare remained critical areas of need. When our team made direct contact, referral success rates were high—over 90% for healthcare, nearly 70% for housing, and about two-thirds for other essential services.

## 2,149 Requests for Support



**Information based on resource requests made between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025.**

# RESOURCES

This year, FreeState Justice’s Resource Navigation Program played a critical role in supporting LGBTQ+ Marylanders navigating deepening fear and rising systemic barriers. Many clients have expressed growing concern that the essential services they rely on could disappear under the current presidential administration. Others worry their identities will be ignored or disrespected when seeking help – especially in healthcare and housing systems.

These concerns reflect the real-world impact of intersecting challenges: anti-LGBTQ+ bias, poverty, and institutional neglect. While Maryland has one of the highest proportions of LGBTQ+ adults in the country, it has not been immune to the national surge in anti-LGBTQ+ legislation. In 2025, service providers across the state reported worsening mental health, housing instability, and trauma among LGBTQ+ youth – consistent with national data showing that 39% of LGBTQ+ youth seriously considered suicide in the past year.



**You Can Request  
Resource Navigation  
Services Here**



SCAN HERE

**Since the start of the year, our  
Resource Program has assisted**



**LGBTQ+ Youth**



In this climate, trusted, identity-affirming services are not optional, they are life-saving. FreeState Justice’s resource navigation work doesn’t just connect people to care. It affirms their dignity and reinforces their right to exist safely. As we look ahead, we remain committed to expanding this work and ensuring every LGBTQ+ Marylander can access the support they need without fear.

A Message From

## Traé McWhite

Resource Coordinator

My second year with FreeState Justice has been one of real, hard-earned growth. In February 2025, the Resource Program expanded from triage navigation into formal survivor case management—a shift born from client need.

*Between January and August 2025, our team connected 302 young people to services and made nearly 1,000 referrals across healthcare, housing, and critical basic needs.*

We saw referral demand increase, particularly for housing and emergency support, as anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric and policy threats escalated nationwide. Locally, young people came to us needing safety planning, temporary shelter, assistance with accessing gender-affirming care, and legal support.

Taking on survivor clients has changed how we work. Case plans are now trauma-informed from intake through closure, and we prioritize rapid housing placements and warm handoffs to mental health providers. We've strengthened relationships with two emergency housing partners, expanded our healthcare referral list to include more

low-barrier clinics, and formalized follow-up processes to ensure that contact attempts do not stop at “referral made.”

While we've made great strides, there are still areas for growth. Many clients need multiple services at once, and the gap between referrals made and referrals actually completed remains an area we need to improve.

**Looking ahead, our priorities for the coming year include:**

### Shortening referral-to-placement time for housing-unstable youth

We're working to shorten the time between referral and placement for unhoused youth so they can access stable housing services more quickly.

### Expanding behavioral-health warm handoffs

We plan to expand our behavioral health warm handoff process, ensuring clients are personally connected to mental health providers for a smoother, more supportive transition into care.

### Tracking survivor outcomes more closely

We aim to track survivor outcomes in greater detail so we can report impact beyond just numbers.

FreeState Justice remains a trusted anchor for Maryland's LGBTQ+ communities. We will continue building programs that meet people where they are—with dignity, safety, and clear pathways to stability.

# STRATEGIC PLAN SUMMARY

## 2026-2028

### *Building The Future Of Equity*

The 2026–2028 Strategic Plan builds on FreeState Justice’s strong foundation – deep roots in community trust, and new branches of service growing statewide. This plan reflects our organization’s commitment to stability, equity, and innovation as we expand legal services, policy advocacy, and community partnerships that ensure every LGBTQ+ Marylander can thrive.

## Strategic Priorities



### Expanding Access and Regional Equity

We will grow our statewide footprint, ensuring affirming legal and resource services reach LGBTQ+ people in every region of Maryland.

- Expand legal clinics in Western, Southern, and Eastern Maryland
- Establish a permanent Montgomery County office and strengthen Prince George’s County partnerships
- Increase total client services by 50% by FY2028



### Advancing Policy and Community Power

We will strengthen the branches of advocacy that protect and empower LGBTQ+ Marylanders.

- Lead legislative advocacy in housing, healthcare, and employment equity
- Grow the Rainbow Roundtable as a statewide coalition for community leadership
- Host Pathway to Progress convenings linking community voices and policymakers



### Ensuring Organizational Sustainability and Growth

We will nurture FreeState Justice’s long-term strength – growing from solid roots of accountability and collaboration.

- Diversify funding through philanthropy, corporate, and foundation partnerships
- Invest in staff development, inclusion, and data-driven infrastructure
- Explore the creation of FreeState Equality, a 501(c)(4) partner organization for civic engagement and advocacy

## Vision For The Future

By 2028, FreeState Justice will stand as Maryland’s leading LGBTQ+ legal and advocacy organization – thriving statewide, anchored in community trust, and sustained by a strong foundation of equity and compassion.

**You Can Read The  
Full Strategic Plan  
Here**



SCAN HERE

A Message From

# Joel Medina

*Community Engagement and  
Development Manager*

Whenever someone asks what my job is, I tell them: I make sure FreeState Justice's services get to those who need them most.

This takes many different forms, from curating our social media accounts to connecting individually with donors and funders. But no matter what form my community engagement takes, each one means that I'm lucky enough to speak daily with the people who share our mission of fighting for Maryland's most marginalized. And, as we've seen more and more attacks against LGBTQ+, Black and Brown, and particularly transgender communities, I have realized just what's at stake in our ongoing fight to make Maryland inclusive for all.

This past year has been a historic one in terms of community engagement; FreeState Justice has seen more traffic on our website, social media channels, and events than it ever has before. This has been reflected by the number of people donating to the organization, with our updated donor systems not only making it easier than ever for people to support us but ensuring they can put their hard-earned money to the

parts of FreeState they believe in most. It has been truly an honor to further connect this organization with the communities it serves – but I know that it's still not enough. And luckily, as this report showcases, we are committed to doing even more for those who need us in this state.

As we look forward, it's clear that attacks against the communities we serve will only increase in the coming months.

*As the person tasked with speaking to FreeState's audience, one thing has become clear: our community is ready to fight.*

Whether it be through donating, volunteering, or requesting services, I find it immensely gratifying to help remind everyone scared today that they have the resources they need to join us in this work.

To everyone who supports us, thank you. I know I've had the privilege of speaking with many of you already, and to those I haven't, I look forward to meeting and telling you about all the ways your support helps us make Maryland a place where truly anyone can thrive.

# PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

## Growth Through Alliances

At FreeState Justice, collaboration is central to how we serve and support Maryland's LGBTQ+ community. Throughout the year, we partnered with organizations across the state – and the country – to expand access to affirming legal services, strengthen our outreach, and deepen our advocacy.



*Miles & Stockbridge partnered with FreeState Justice on multiple legal clinics and helped expand the organization's pro bono legal provider network.*



*FreeState works with Chase Brexton to ensure LGBTQ+ Marylanders have the health resources they need.*



*SAGE and FreeState have collaborated to promote respect for LGBTQ+ elders and create inclusive programming.*



*The Pride Center of Maryland has collaborated with FreeState on the 'HAUS of TAC' and various other programs throughout 2025.*



*The Rainbow Roundtable is a coalition of LGBTQ+-serving orgs led by FreeState who meet monthly to discuss ways to support LGBTQ+ Marylanders.*



*Equality Federation and FreeState Justice collaborated on a statewide campaign to pass the Carlton R. Smith Jr. HIV Modernization Act.*



*Maryland's LGBTQ+ Legislative Caucus has worked with FreeState to advocate for and pass multiple pieces of inclusive legislation.*



*FreeState Justice leads this group of LGBTQ+-serving orgs and advocates fighting for HIV decriminalization in Maryland.*



*Brown, Goldstein & Levy officially partnered with FreeState to host pro bono legal clinics for LGBTQ+ Marylanders and support statewide efforts to advance LGBTQ+ rights.*



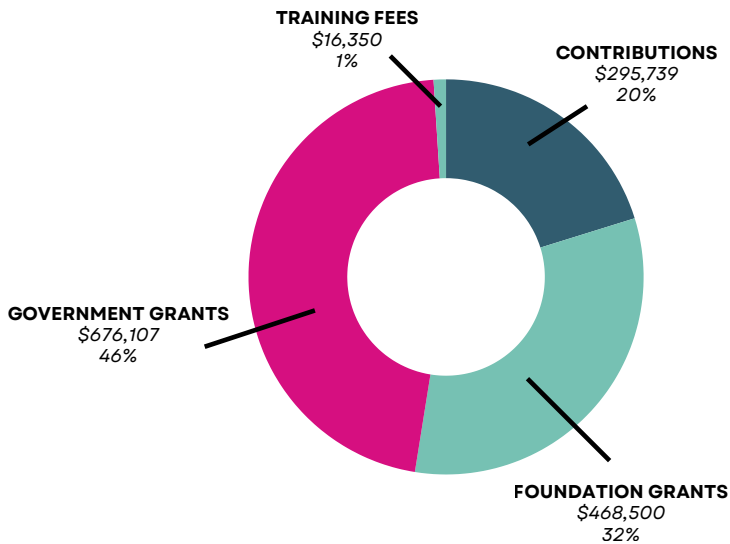
*BLAQ Equity Baltimore maintains an official partnership with FreeState to expand access to legal services and support for Black and gender-expansive communities statewide.*

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

*Built on Trust & Transparency*

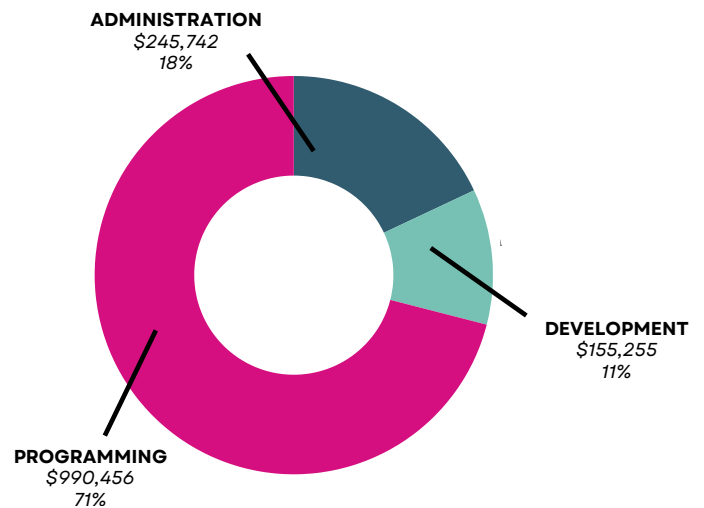
## Total Income

**\$1,456,696**



## Total Expenses

**\$1,391,453**



This information is reflective of FreeState Justice's fiscal year, which is July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

A cash basis of accounting was used for the information displayed above.

## THANK YOU TO OUR INSTITUTIONAL FUNDERS

THESE ARE THE FOUNDATIONS WHOSE SUPPORT MAKES FREESTATE JUSTICE'S WORK POSSIBLE

Abell Foundation  
Annie E. Casey Foundation  
Baltimore Bar Foundation  
Charities Aid Foundation of America  
Chase Brexton Health Services  
Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation  
Enterprise Mobility  
Equality Federation  
Fidelity Charitable  
Greater Washington Community Foundation  
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