

FY 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2024-JUNE 30, 2025

ASISTA IMMIGRATION ASSISTANCE

STANDING WITH IMMIGRANT
SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE



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Who We Are

ASISTA Immigration Assistance (ASISTA) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. For over 16 years, ASISTA has been a national leader in training, mentoring, technical assistance, and policy advocacy to strengthen protections for immigrant survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and other crimes, including those identified in the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA). ASISTA was founded by legal experts who successfully advocated for these protections to be enshrined in those federal laws.



Our Vision

Our vision is that immigrants live in a just world free of violence.

Our Mission

Our mission is to advance the dignity, rights, and liberty of immigrant survivors of violence.

Our Members

ASISTA has a membership of 2,500+ attorneys and advocates across the nation working at the intersection of immigration and gender-based violence. Our members consist of individuals, organizations, agencies, and firms that serve immigrant survivors of violence in a professional capacity and in a manner that is consistent with ASISTA's mission. Our members help to inform ASISTA's work by providing on-the-ground updates and letting us know what is needed for them to best serve their immigrant clients.

Friends,

It's been quite a year. In September of 2024, I was honored to be invited to the White House to join President Biden and other advocates and leaders from across the country to celebrate the thirty year anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Those events at the White House and the Department of Justice provided a profound opportunity to reflect on the tremendous progress we've made, and the significant work still ahead of us, in ending domestic violence, sexual assault, and other forms of gender-based violence (GBV). It was extra special to celebrate this milestone alongside one of our co-founders, Gail Pendleton, and others who worked to ensure that VAWA contained groundbreaking provisions to protect immigrant survivors of violence from unjust deportation. Being surrounded by these trailblazers was genuinely inspiring.

Today, that milestone is bittersweet. Immigrant survivors of violence face mounting threats every day that fly in the face of VAWA, which passed with broad bipartisan support and enshrined into law the principle that our government and its laws should never be weaponized by abusers. VAWA reflects a recognition that we all deserve to be safe, no matter where we were born. These same principles are under direct attack today, as immigrants are unjustly targeted, scapegoated, kidnapped, separated from their families, denied due process, and deported. These horrors fall even more heavily on survivors and their children, compounding their existing trauma.

In the midst of this dystopian landscape, I am again inspired. The courage and determination of immigrant survivors pursuing safety and survival in this almost unfathomably challenging and xenophobic environment is both humbling and inspiring.

I am further inspired by my colleagues at ASISTA, who use their deep expertise and ingenuity to seek justice for survivors with grit and good humor. I am extremely grateful for our partners in the Alliance for Immigrant Survivors and the other organizations we



A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

work with, who model this compassionate determination as well. Likewise, ASISTA's indefatigable members are our backbone: from the front lines, their creativity, determination, and tenacity helps survivors prevail against incredible odds. All of our work at ASISTA is supported by our passionate, highly engaged Board of Directors, whose commitment to this organization and our work never fails to inspire me. Last, none of what we do would be possible without our donors and supporters, whose unwavering support through thick and thin reminds our team that there are kind, compassionate justice-seekers standing with us every step of the way.

As ICE agents pursue survivors at courthouses and domestic violence shelters, and policy changes continue to dismantle existing sources of safety and justice, we at ASISTA continue to stand with survivors. We remain steadfast in our goal to prevent the unjust deportation of immigrant survivors of GBV by equipping the attorneys and advocates who represent them with the expert resources, rapid-response strategies, and educational materials they need to succeed.

In this unprecedented moment, we at ASISTA are more committed to our purpose than ever. We continue to honor the vision of our founders, and the courage of survivors, as we press forward in the fight for justice. Thank you for standing with survivors, and for standing with us.

KIRSTEN RAMBO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

OUR FY 25 IMPACT SNAPSHOT

PROVIDED
TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE
1,071 TIMES

HOSTED 32
EVENTS,
INCLUDING 4
CONFERENCES

TRAINED 5,142
IMMIGRATION
PRACTITIONERS



“
This was amazing. I was so impressed with all the answers given. To the point, with citations, and helpful commentary.

Seriously, you are amazing. It was like a bunch of mini CLEs. Thank you! - ASISTA member, Virginia

OUR REACH

**THIS PAST YEAR, ASISTA HELPED 2,867
SURVIVORS AND THEIR CHILDREN
FROM 61 COUNTRIES.**



Albania	Cuba	Haiti	Peru	Trinidad
Argentina	Democratic Republic of Congo	Honduras	Philippines	Uganda
Belarus	Dominican Republic	India	Poland	Ukraine
Belize	Ecuador	Iran	Portugal	United Kingdom
Bolivia	Egypt	Jamaica	Romania	Uruguay
Brazil	El Salvador	Japan	Russia	Uzbekistan
Cape Verde	Ethiopia	Kenya	Serbia	Venezuela
Chad	France	Liberia	South Africa	Vietnam
Chile	Germany	Macedonia	South Sudan	Zambia
China	Ghana	Mexico	Sri Lanka	
Colombia	Guatemala	Nepal	St. Lucia	
Costa Rica	Guinea-Bissau	Nicaragua	Taiwan	
Cote d'Ivoire	Guyana	Niger	Tanzania	

ASISTA IN THE NEWS

ASISTA continues to serve as a resource for media outlets on the state of immigration policy, particularly as recent legislative and regulatory changes have negatively impacted immigrant survivors of gender-based violence. Below are a few comments/interviews provided by ASISTA staff this past year.

The New York Times

These Parkland Shooting Survivors Were Promised Visas. They're Still Waiting.

By Deborah Sontag
October 19, 2024

POLITICO

Is the Laken Riley Act actually about Laken Riley?

By Giselle Ruhyyih Ewing
January 31, 2025

MotherJones

LA's ICE Raids Are Impacting Domestic Violence Shelters

By Julianne McShane
June 12, 2025



VOA

Alivio migratorio para indocumentados con cónyuges estadounidenses genera controversia

By Voz de America
August 26, 2024

ARIZONA CAPITOL TIMES

T visa rule changes could help survivors of human trafficking seeking immigration status

By Aaron Stigle, Cronkite News
September 11, 2024

Our Programs

Technical Assistance & Impact Litigation

ASISTA's technical assistance (TA) is individualized and group case mentoring for attorneys, DOJ accredited representatives, and advocates who are serving immigrant survivors of violence in a professional capacity. We help expand the capacity of these attorneys and advocates by answering complex issues and questions that arise in Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), U, and T visa cases as well as other relief for immigrant survivors of crime.

We also help attorneys and advocates with matters involving inadmissibility, deportability, enforcement issues, and cases in immigration court. ASISTA provides expert insight to attorneys and advocates representing immigrant survivors by helping them apply the skills needed to respond to the swiftly changing legal landscape.

"I am very grateful for the assistance and willingness to help me with my case. I have reached out twice, and both times I have learned so much but most importantly, I had answers and legal arguments to the issues I sought assistance with. Thank you."
- Attorney, Minnesota.



FY 25 Impact

- **Provided 900 case mentoring sessions to practitioners and advocates across the country**
- **Provided 16 emergency case mentoring sessions**

Our Programs

Trainings & Legal Assistance

ASISTA provides a variety of in-person and online training opportunities to attorneys and advocates who serve immigrant survivors of crime, including enhanced safety planning, basic and advanced topics on survivor-based forms of immigration benefits, policy and advocacy updates, litigation strategies, and more.

Our goal is to prevent the unjust deportation of immigrant survivors of GBV by equipping the attorneys/advocates who represent them with the expert resources, rapid-response strategies, and educational materials they need to succeed.

FY 25 Impact

- **Hosted 4 Virtual Conferences**
- **Hosted 9 National Webinars**
- **Hosted 19 Other Customized TA Events, Forums, Calls**



Client Success Story

Ana was the victim of sexual assault when she was 12 years old. After she pressed charges against her attacker, his family members began threatening her, forcing her to flee back to Guatemala.

Back in Guatemala, unfortunately, Ana suffered from domestic violence. Her attempt to reunite with her mother in the US was complicated, in part because her mother was in the midst of a years-long process to obtain legal status in the US via a U visa. Her attorney sought help from ASISTA for this complex case. We were happy to help with legal strategies for the best chance of success for Ana and her mom.

We are delighted to share that Ana obtained lawful status in the U.S. and is on the path to a green card! In addition, she is finally able to live with her mother and the rest of her family in safety in the United States—after spending nearly 10 years apart.



Years ago, through legislation and policy advocacy, ASISTA's founders helped to create special routes to legal status for immigrant survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) in this country, particularly survivors of domestic and sexual violence. These paths to legal status are referred to as Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) self-petitions, the U visa, and the T visa.

Today, ASISTA is a national leader on advocacy on behalf of immigrant survivors of crime and their families. We address individual case problems and identify systemic trends and issues that require policy change. We work at the intersection of the immigration advocacy and GBV advocacy communities to ensure that immigrant survivors have access to the rights and protections afforded to them under the law.

In addition, ASISTA works in collaboration with other national organizations to stay abreast of changes affecting survivors and immigrants seeking humanitarian relief from removal. ASISTA is one of four organizations that lead the Alliance for Immigrant Survivors (AIS), a national network of advocates and allies dedicated to defending and advocating for policies that ensure immigrant survivors of GBV have access to life-saving protections.

Making Systemic Change through Policy Advocacy

ASISTA has advocated for and will continue to support the following bills:

- **WISE ACT (HR 28510)**
- **Protecting Sensitive Locations Act (HR 1061)**
- **Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act (HR 6397)**
- **Healing Partnerships for Survivors Act (HR 4510)**
- **Crime Victim Fund Stabilization Act (HR 909)**
- **HEAL for Immigrant Families Act (HR 4104)**
- **Full funding for Authorized Grants**



Celebrating 30 YEARS OF VAWA

This past year marked the 30th anniversary of the passage of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). ASISTA's founders helped to make sure that VAWA includes protections for immigrant survivors—a legacy that has impacted hundreds of thousands of lives already and continues today.

First enacted in 1994, VAWA was the first comprehensive federal law focused on preventing and addressing domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. When it was first passed, VAWA initially focused on providing resources and training to improve the responses and policies of law enforcement, prosecutors, and courts, as well as support victim services to address crimes historically treated as private matters. As Congress subsequently reauthorized VAWA in 2000, 2005, 2013, and 2022, it provided important additional protections for LGBTQ+ survivors, Native American survivors, survivors on campus, and more.

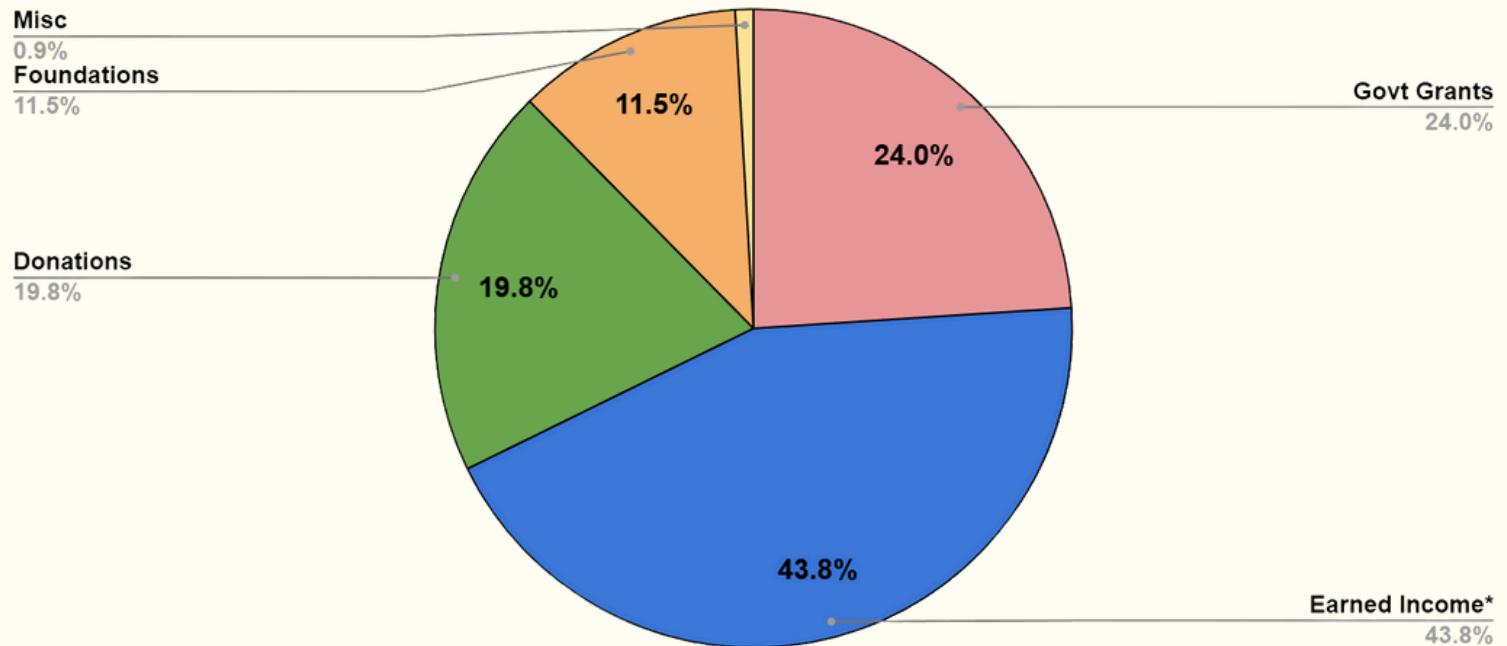
ASISTA celebrated this policy anniversary and its impact last year by attending an event at the White House where President Biden delivered remarks and advocates from across the country reconnected. In addition, ASISTA hosted a two-day conference, where our team and other national experts explained the current protections VAWA provides for immigrant survivors of GBV.

The work of these pioneers didn't just make a difference 30 years ago—it continues to resonate today. Thanks to their vision and perseverance, immigrant women have legal pathways to escape abusive situations, rebuild their lives, and live free from violence. Their contributions have shaped legal protections that remain vital to this day. - Sonia Parras Konrad, ASISTA co-founder



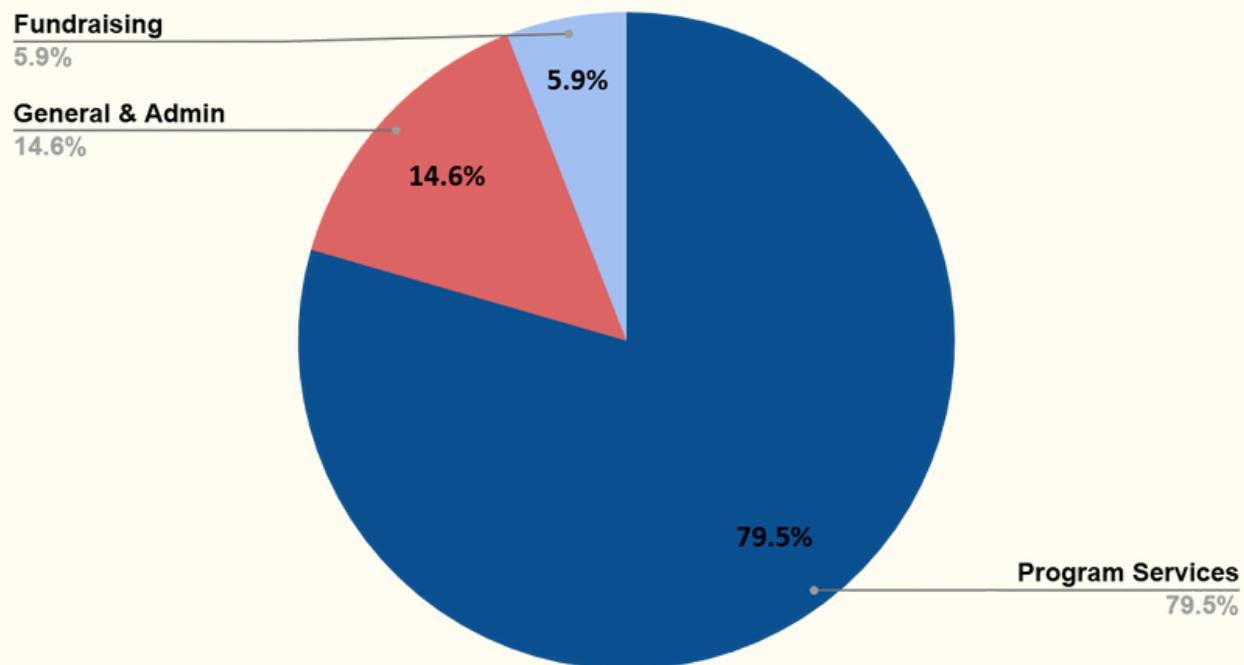
FY 25 Financials

ASISTA FY25 Revenue



*Earned Income includes membership, training, and products.

ASISTA FY25 Expenses



THANK YOU



On behalf of the ASISTA Board and staff, we want to thank our members, donors, sponsors, funders, partners, advocates, and all who stood with immigrant survivors this past year.

Your ongoing support helps to advance our mission and provides us with the means to create the biggest impact, alongside the attorneys and advocates who work each day to protect the freedoms and rights of individuals seeking a better life for themselves and their children.

In the interest of safety and solidarity, ASISTA has decided to not list individual supporters in this annual report. Addressing these risks and ensuring safety are at the heart of our work on behalf of immigrant survivors and all who stand with them.

We are deeply grateful for our partnerships and our collective efforts to ensure that every person is entitled to safety and justice —no matter where we are born.