



Detroit Phoenix Center
A PLACE WHERE YOUTH RISE

2023 Annual Report

www.detroitphoenixcenter.org



DPC showed me that my voice mattered, showed me different ways to advocate my voice and build my confidence and now I can speak in crowds.

~Azaria Terrell~
 Youth Action Board President

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OPENING STATEMENT FROM CEO

Dear Champion,

Fleeing an abusive home, Dwayne spent his teenage years in and out of Detroit shelters. He found respite in a library—spending time inside during operating hours to get out of the elements and sleep outside at night. He struggled to find places to wash up and secure food. He worked hard to hide his homelessness. He desperately wanted to avoid the stigma.

Then a chance meeting at a coffee shop connected Dwayne with a representative of the Detroit Phoenix Center (DPC). DPC helped him with hotel stays when he needed to keep out of the cold. Eventually, he secured more permanent housing, including his first month's rent with the support of our nonprofit and moved on to become a leader on our youth action board. The story does not stop there. He returned to DPC and continues donating his time to help others as a drop-in services volunteer.

Dwayne's story is not unique, but it is because of your generosity throughout the year that the DPC can positively impact countless individuals with similar stories to Dwayne's in the Detroit community. And let me tell you, your support in 2023 allowed us to have a banner year in our achievements on behalf of Detroit's youths.

In 2023, DPC was able to achieve several milestones, including:

- Providing critical services and resources to over **1,700 individuals**, including emergency housing, food, cell phone gifts cards, transportation and mental health support.
- Providing **1,577 hours** of academic, workforce development and mental health programming.

- Partnering with **Homeless Action Network of Detroit** and the Detroit CoC to provide young leaders a seat at the table in efforts to prevent, end and address youth homelessness.
- Fully operationalizing **our new home at Youthville**, located in the heart of the city in Detroit's New Center. With this move, DPC has served twice as many youths with our wrap-around programs and services.
- Launching new programs; such as launching season 2 of our youth led podcast, **Detroit Youth Rising**. This new podcast series was created by DPC youth and is for youth in the community. The podcast is designed to provide young people with a platform to raise awareness of social issues they are passionate about.
- Partnering with local **organizations and businesses to expand our reach** and better serve our community's needs.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without your support. Your contributions are making a real difference in the lives of those who need it most.

We are grateful for your continued support and are committed to building on our successes in the coming years. With your help, we can continue to make a positive impact in the Detroit community and beyond.

Thank you for your partnership.

Sincerely,

Courtney Smith
Courtney Smith
Founder and CEO
Detroit Phoenix Center



OUR MISSION

Detroit Phoenix Center (DPC) provides critical resources, wrap around support, and a safe, nurturing environment to youth who are transitioning out of homelessness and poverty.

OUR VISION

A world where every young person has a place to call home and the resources needed to actualize their full-potential and live out their dreams.

OUR VALUES



Journey Oriented



Healing-Centered



Non-Judgemental



Harm Reduction



Trusting Youth-Adult Relationships



Racial Equity & Inclusion



Dignity & Hope

OUR PILLARS



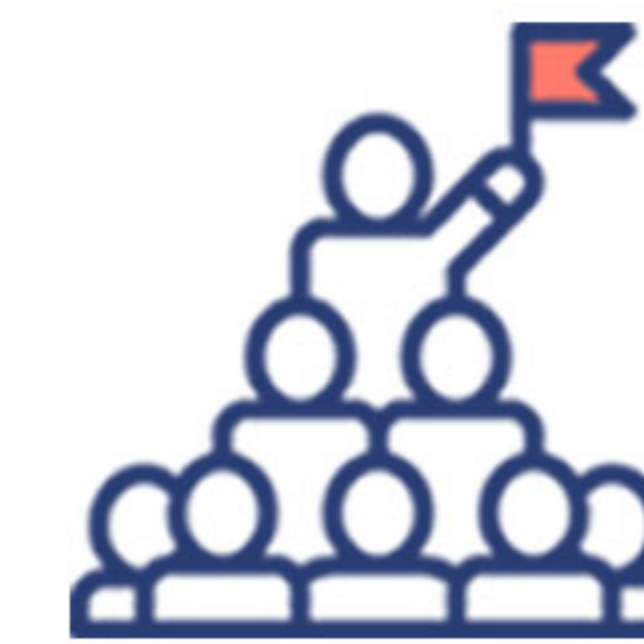
Basic Needs & Housing



Mental Health & Wellness



Education & Employment



Youth Leadership & Power



PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

In **2023**, Detroit Phoenix center

Served over **1,700**
youth/individuals

via DPC's new headquarters through outreach
and other activities



Programming Hours



1577+

of academic, workforce development
and mental health programming



HOUSING & BASIC NEEDS

Housing Highlight


 **365** nights of emergency shelter offered
(hotel vouchers + short term housing)



71 Children & Youth
Placed in Housing

Crisis Communication

 **960+**
Crisis
Calls

 **3,840**
crisis text
responses

Drop In Center Highlight

Over 1200
Drop in visits

youth had access to:

 Showers

 Food

 Games

 Laundry
Services

 Hygiene
Products

 Computers

and more!

HOUSING & BASIC NEEDS

HQ at Youthville

In 2023, DPC became fully operational at Youthville Detroit on Woodward Avenue to expand its reach and serve more youth.

In FY23, DPC has set an ambitious goal of serving more than 1,700 unduplicated individuals, with incremental increases each year thereafter.

The new space would serve as the mainstay of the organization -- housing the drop-in center, housing intervention, office spaces, after school and workforce development programming, and a social enterprise.



District 6

where Youthville is located, has been named as the district with the largest number of students who have been identified as experiencing homelessness, uniquely positioning DPC to more effectively address this issue. The grand opening ceremony took place in November 2022.

Youth painted murals on the walls and were instrumental in the design of the space.

HOUSING & BASIC NEEDS

Awarded as a Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Recipient

As one of only four recipients of the **Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP)** grant in the city, DPC serves as a Joint Component Transitional Housing–Rapid Rehousing (TH-RRH) service provider, in partnership with **MCHS**.



Our Youth Leaders were integral to key decision-making processes. They were their own advocates in designing YHDP.

Game Changing

This game changing award puts DPC one step closer to fulfilling its mission and making youth homelessness in Detroit rare, brief, and non-recurring.



WELLNESS & MENTAL HEALTH

Mental Health Highlight



45 Youth

connected to one on one or group therapy



Thanks to our continued partnership with BetterHelp, we are able to support the health and wellbeing of our youth & young adult members and staff

Teen Talks

In 2023, we kicked off our Teen Talks, which is a youth wellness and healing circle, that provides a safe environment for youth to lead the discussion on mental well being.

--This is a partnered workshop with host Patrece Lucas at Indigo Transitions.

EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

SOAR: AFTERSCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

DPC **SOAR: Afterschool Enrichment Program** is geared towards youth ages 12-18 years of age. It provides a safe, interactive and educational after-school experience.

In 2023, our **SOAR** Program offered youth the following:



- Driver's Training
- Cooking & Life Skills
- Theater For Life
- Teen Talk
- Tutoring & Coaching
- College & Career Pathway Seminars
- Know Your Rights Workshops
- Hoops & Hero's Basketball Club
- Young Changemakers Fellowship
- & more

100% of students surveyed reported that since joining **SOAR** they have people they can trust and know where to turn to for advice



SOAR
Afterschool Enrichment Program

A&W
DRIVING
EDUCATION
SCHOOL
313-974-9167

PISTONS

EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

Blair Memorial Scholarship

The Blair Memorial Scholarship is awarded annually to students who demonstrate academic fortitude and a desire to pursue higher education. Breaking down barriers to higher education is incredibly important to aiding young people realize their full potential and live out their dream.



In 2023, Blair Memorial Scholarship committee chose 8 award recipients who will each receive \$500.

"DPC has done more for me in the past four years than I could possibly imagine! From resources and financial assistance to help me with my self-esteem and mental health, I am so grateful for them coming into my life. This scholarship would help purchase books and supplies that I need for school and move forward in the steps I need to take to transition to college." - Azaria



Scholarship Impact



\$20K
in scholarships awarded since 2019



100%
reported recipient graduation rate



150+
hours of therapy and wrap around support offered



12
Job / Internship Placements

We honor the life of Blair, by continuing to make an impact with our Blair Memorial Scholarship Program.

EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

Summer Leadership Academy

In 2023, DPC partnered with several organizations, to host our **Summer Leadership Academy (SLA)**.

The **Summer Leadership Academy** is a paid workforce development program that helps youth & young adults, ages 14-24, build essential leadership skills and explore future career opportunities through exciting hands-on activities, exclusive site visits, and interactive meetings with community mentors.

30 young people participating in our Summer Leadership Academy (SLA).



ally

Community Foundation
FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

Education & Employment Highlight



170 Youth

received college prep and other educational services and resources



63 Youth

received workforce/job readiness training

YOUTH LEADERSHIP & POWER

Expanded its Youth Leadership Program

Through its Trailblazer Youth Action Board (YAB) and Young Change Makers Fellowship, DPC engaged 35 young people, ages 13-24 in intentional, productive, and constructive ways while recognizing and enhancing their strengths to promote positive outcomes.

McGREGOR
FUND

DPC received funding from the McGregor Fund to expand its youth leadership program and provide wrap-around supportive services to youth enrolled.

Youth Leadership

These programs provide opportunities for combating racial inequities by training and mobilizing teens and young adults most impacted by the systems to create change through service learning projects and youth-led townhalls.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP & POWER

Youth Action Board National Impact

Some of the **Youth Action Board (YAB)** Senior Youth Members traveled to Washington D.C to attend the 2023 National Summit on Youth Homelessness, to implement new recruitment strategies, advocacy techniques, influence legislation with policy makers on Capitol Hill and meet with other YAB boards across the nation.



The YAB traveled to New York to attend Point Source Youth's 7th Annual National Symposium, on Solutions To End Youth Homelessness. This opportunity provided our young leaders access to meet with providers, youth advocates, activists, policymakers, funders, and more committed to ending the national youth homelessness crisis and placing power and resources in the hands of young people.

INNOVATIONS

Detroit Youth Rising Podcast

In partnership with **Community Marketing Revolutions** our **Young Change Makers** completed season 2 of our youth-led podcast, *Detroit Youth Rising*.

Participating youth were compensated for their time.



Podcast Season Topics:

Season 2 – Misconception

- EP1 | Yelling is Effective at Motivating Young People
- EP2 | Today's Teens Are Lazy
- EP3 | Youth Don't Have Mental Health Challenges
- EP4 | Everyone Has An Equal Chance Of Succeeding
- EP5 | The Police Make Youths Feel Safer
- EP6 | Teen Girls Are Fast

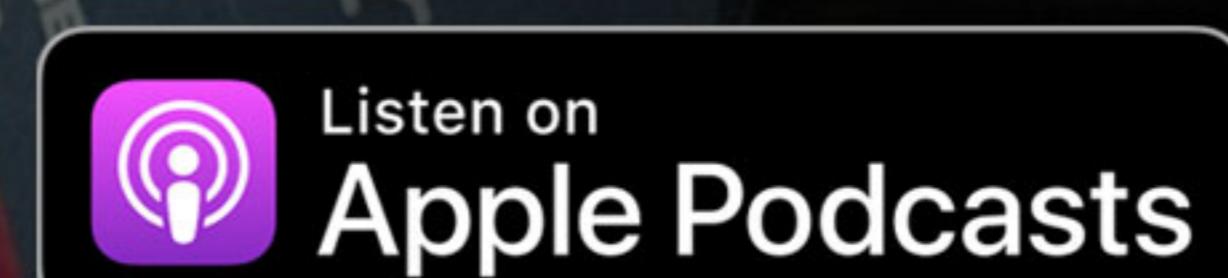
Season 1 – Barriers

- EP1 | Homelessness
- EP2 | Food Insecurity
- EP3 | Mental Health
- EP4 | Education
- EP5 | Communication
- EP6 | Transportation

Subscribe & Listen

In 2023, DPC has continued to offer the “**Detroit Youth Rising**” platform to its youth as a means to express themselves, spread awareness of the youth homelessness crisis in Detroit, advocate for policy change, and other issues of concern.

The podcasts can be subscribed and listened to on Spotify and Apple



INNOVATIONS

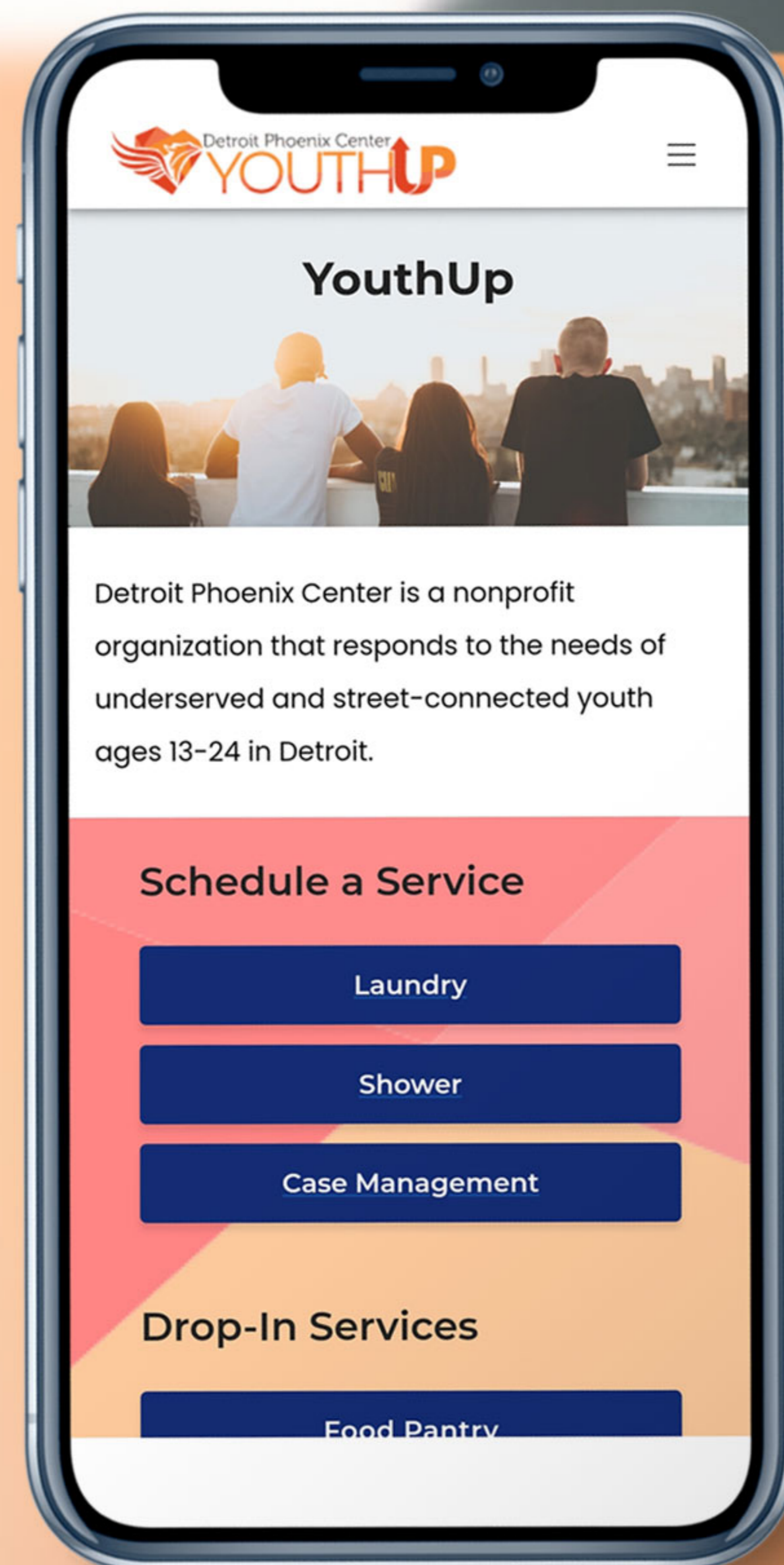
YouthUP Resource App

In 2023, we finalized our resource app, **Youth Up**, with and for youth in Detroit. This app was developed by **Detroit Labs**, a custom software development company -- who selected DPC to receive pro-bono support, valued at \$50,000.



Youth Up connects youth with a much-needed database of resources (ranging from food pantries to emergency shelters to legal assistance) that they can access using their phone and a public computer.

In addition to a robust rolodex of youth centric resources throughout the region, Youth Up allows young people to schedule appointments and services at DPC.



SCAN QR CODE TO ACCESS APP



Quick Assistance

Youth Up: Quick Assistance enables youth to connect more easily and rapidly to services and form social connections virtually, which proved to be paramount as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.



Food



Housing



Transportation



Mental Health



Emergency



LGBTQA+



Phone Chargers

www.dpcyouthup.org

IMPACT CAMPAIGN

One Night Without a Bed

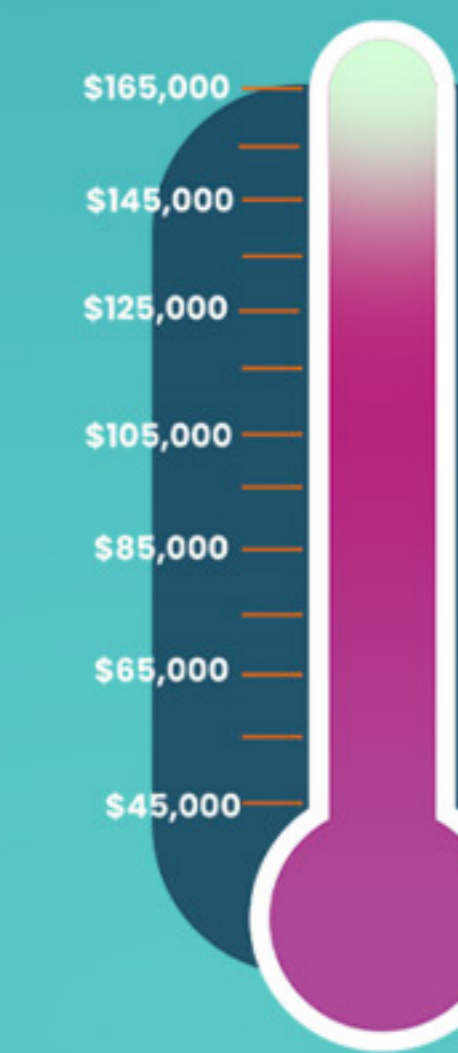
In November 2023, DPC celebrated Giving Tuesday with the third annual **One Night Without a Bed (ONWAB)** sleepout event. For the first time the event was hybrid, and proved just as successful as in previous years.



Impact



Reached nearly **3 million** with our awareness campaign through news outlets and billboard marketing



Exceeded our **\$165,000** goal
Amount Raised
\$165,931



Over 100 attendees at the ONWAB Kick Off in event



Received over **\$50,000** in in-kind donations of goods & services to support the campaign & event



Acknowledged 13 individuals & organizations in our 2023 ONWAB Awards



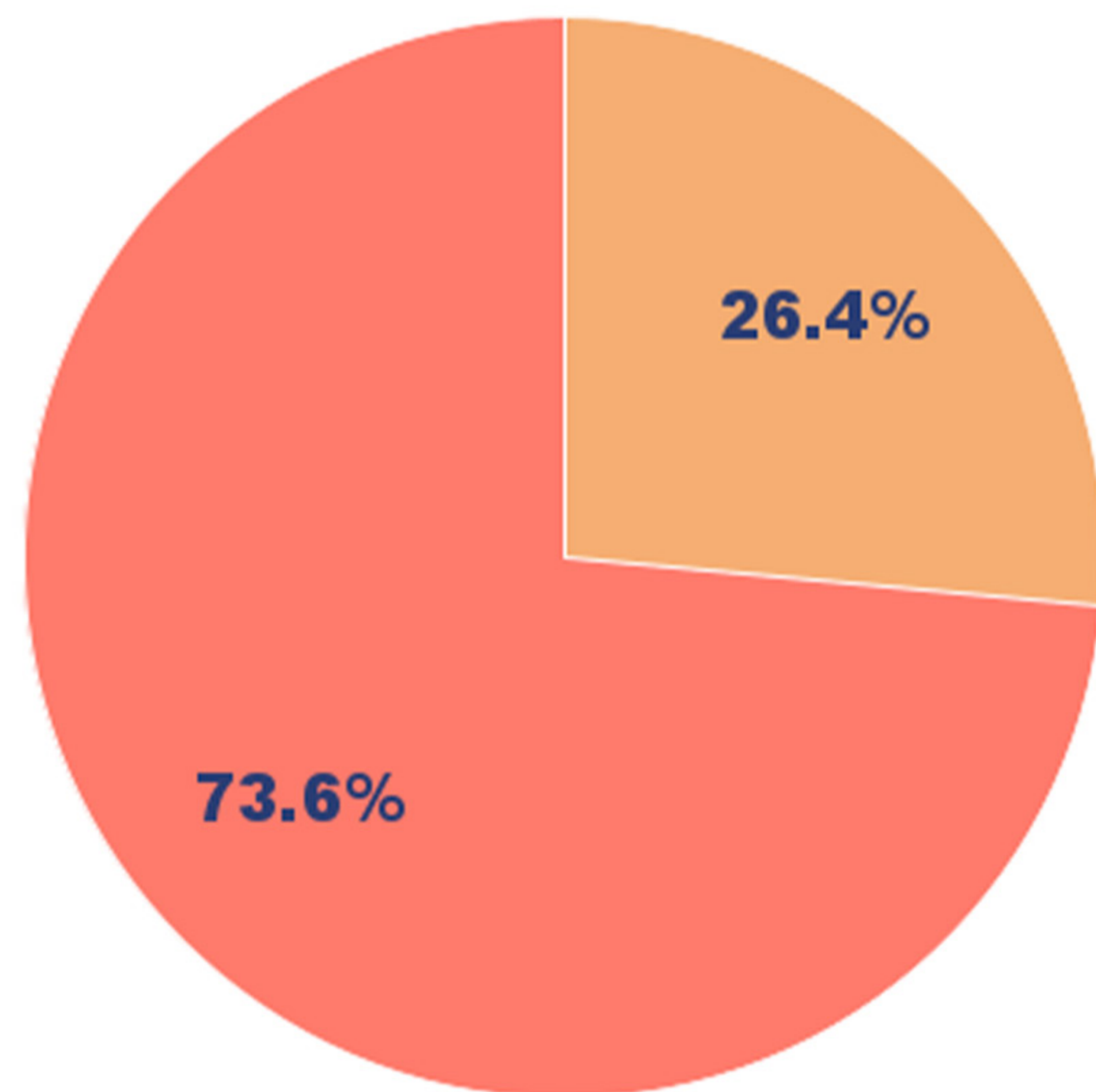
CBS NEWS DETROIT

Interviewed By **4 major news networks**

Instead of a simulation, this challenge served as a call to action to help ensure young people no longer live with housing insecurity and threats to their well being.

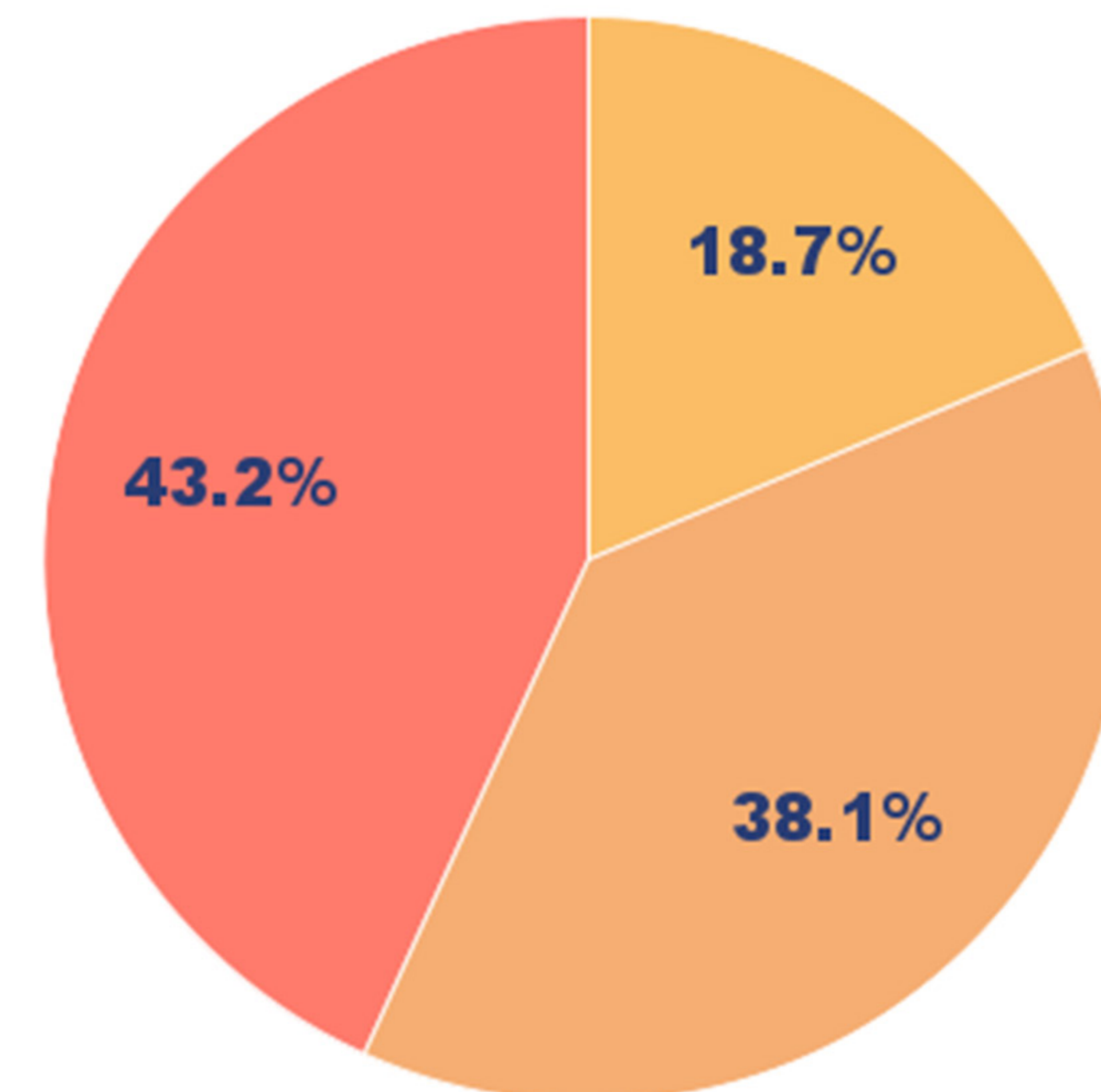
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

SOURCES OF REVENUE



- Grant Funding: \$585,000.00
- Non-Profit Income Donations: \$210,000.00

EXPENSES



- Payroll Expenses: \$343,565.00
- Program & Operating Expense: \$302,838.00
- Personnel: \$148,500.00

CHAMPION PARTNERS



We are beyond grateful for the help of our Partners and could not do this heart work without them.

add many MORE!

YOUTH ACTION BOARD



Azaria Terrell (she/her)
YAB President



Armani Arnold (she/her)
YAB Member



Ayanna Odom Foxworth (she/her)
YAB Member



Alan Jackson (he/him)
YAB Member



Diamond White (she/her)
YAB Member



Ajanae Robinson (she/her)
YAB Member



Bobby Square (he/him)
YAB Member



James Ashley (he/him)
YAB Member



Keyanna Evans (she/her)
YAB Member



DeAndra Matthews (she/her)
YAB Advisor



The **Youth Action Board (YAB)** is an interagency group of young leaders with lived experiences to inform the public about issues, identify and work to eliminate barriers to housing, employment, education, mental health, and advocate for increased resources to transition youth.

OUR TEAM



Marshawn Pettes (he/him)
Acting CFO



Chantel Hicks (she/her)
Operations Director



Robert Cooper (he/him)
Senior Case Manager



Titus Johnson (he/him)
Marketing Specialist



DeAndra Matthews (she/her)
Program Associate



Shalonda Spencer (she/her)
HMIS Administrator



Marilyn Davis (she/her)
*Human Resources
Consultant*



Lakeisha Wright (she/her)
Americorp Vista Member
*Outreach & Engagement
Associate*



Dontinai Edmondson (she/her)
Administrative Assistant



Jedzia Collins (she/her)
Youth Justice Fellow



Courtney Smith (she/her)
Founder and CEO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Mary Jo Vortcamp (she/her)
Board Chair

*Manager
Detroit Public Library &
Children's Librarian*



Carl Bentley (he/him)
Member At Large

*Executive & Owner
Business Growth Consulting*



Brandon Biddles (he/him)
Treasurer

*Project Manager
Henry Ford Health System
& Financial Literacy Advocate*



Saloni Janveja (she/her)
Member At Large

*Digital Transformation
Ally Financial*



John C. Muhs (he/him)
Secretary

*Associate
Warner Norcross + Judd LLP*



Courtney Smith (she/her)
Member At Large

*Founder and CEO
Detroit Phoenix Center*



Detroit Phoenix Center
A PLACE WHERE YOUTH RISE

Together we rise.



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