

# Center for Children & Youth Justice

## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



# About Us

## OUR MISSION

The mission of CCYJ is to create better lives for generations of children and youth by reforming the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

To learn more, please visit [ccyj.org](https://ccyj.org).



## Letter from Our President & CEO

**At the Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ), we're changing the way young people experience the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.**

By listening to young people and working with partners across Washington State, we're advancing a redesign of our child welfare and juvenile justice systems to meet children's and youth's unique needs, with a commitment to racial equity by embedding it in everything we do.

The heart of this work is the CCYJ Staff, who bring their brilliance and commitment to everything they do in service of kids and families. We have adapted and pivoted during a global pandemic, being nimble and effective in discovering the most meaningful ways to contribute to where the needs are greatest. **CCYJ remains vibrant, strong and poised to continue to make a resounding impact.**

System disparities are impacting children of color and LGBTQ+ youth in profoundly negative ways. The pandemic has deepened this gap and amplified where systems reform is needed most. CCYJ has been pivoting to address these needs, taking our work where it is needed most—**because of you.**

In 2020, infants and toddlers aged birth to three made up 46% of Washington's dependency case filings in the foster care system. That same year, of all children who went into foster care in Washington State, 32% were infants under the age of 1, up 7% from the year prior.

Racial disparities are evident as we unveiled the data even further. During 2020, we convened, listened and discovered a strong community and

state interest in creating solutions. Hundreds of people participated with us to design an implementation strategy and plan to address this issue. CCYJ led this effort, alongside our partners. In addition to spearheaded legislative efforts this session with SB5331 - a framework to codify WA's commitment to create a lasting solution for babies and toddlers in the foster care system, all grounded in data and best practices. Governor Inslee signed SB5331 into law on May 13, 2021. There are now 4 counties in Washington with an Early Childhood Court Program to address this need.

Our work is about identifying high impact opportunities, researching the issue, designing evidence-based strategies to test and evaluate performance, and if of value - accomplishing what we intended - seek ways to institute long term sustainability.

As we reflect on the lessons we've learned over the past 15 years, we will continue to relentlessly integrate and build upon what we've discovered as we move into what lies ahead.

Kids can't wait any longer for equitable systems. It is our collective responsibility to invest in them.

In gratitude,

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Rachel Sottile".

Rachel Sottile  
CCYJ President & CEO





## Our COVID-19 Response

**2020 was a volatile year, especially for the children and families that we serve.**

The pandemic required CCYJ to adapt quickly and take our work where it is needed most. We listened carefully to those closest to the issues and responded quickly to the urgent needs of system-impacted kids, positioning ourselves in a way that could contribute to meaningful solutions. We convened new partnerships and drafted new policies inside a commitment to create more equitable systems for children and youth.

## Our Programs

**CCYJ is grateful to our generous investors** who furthered our work in an incredibly challenging year. As a result of their contributions, babies and toddlers and families have stayed together; girls and young women on probation have received therapeutic, gender-responsive services; commercially sexually exploited children have received specialized services that promote healing; and kids impacted by systems have been empowered to follow dreams regardless of their race, gender identity or background.

In 2020, CCYJ's programs and partnerships impacted our communities in the following ways:





# eQuality

eQuality's Protocol of Safe & Affirming Care (PSAC) is a statewide guide for professionals serving LGBTQ+ youth, and incorporates intersectionality into Project Respect and all CCYJ programs.

- Launched a revised SOGIE (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression) data collection effort in **8** sites across Washington
- Convened **170** professionals from across the state at the Second Annual eQuality Convening (virtually), highlighting the experiences of intersex youth involved in systems of care
- Trained nearly **850** professionals on supporting LGBTQ+ youth in systems of care and on talking to youth about SOGIE through a series of online trainings open to all

# Project Respect

Project Respect is a survivor-led, statewide, coordinated, victim-centered response to Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC).

- Brought together over **200** professionals from across the country at the Sixth Annual CSEC Task Force Conference (virtually) along with a summer lunch webinar series, centering the voices of survivors and highlighting a myriad of issues related to the sex trafficking of youth
- Collected statewide data to assess the immediate needs of commercially sexually exploited children during the COVID pandemic, enabling us to effectuate a coordinated response and support youth in the most impactful way
- Launched the only effort outside of King County to collect data on CSEC referrals within Washington, enabling a better understanding of the demographic makeup of commercially sexually exploited youth and their service needs



# Becca

The Washington State Becca Task Force Project (BTF) is a multidisciplinary, statewide program that supports schools, courts, and service providers in carrying out the intent and goals of the mandatory attendance and at-risk youth laws—the “Becca laws.”

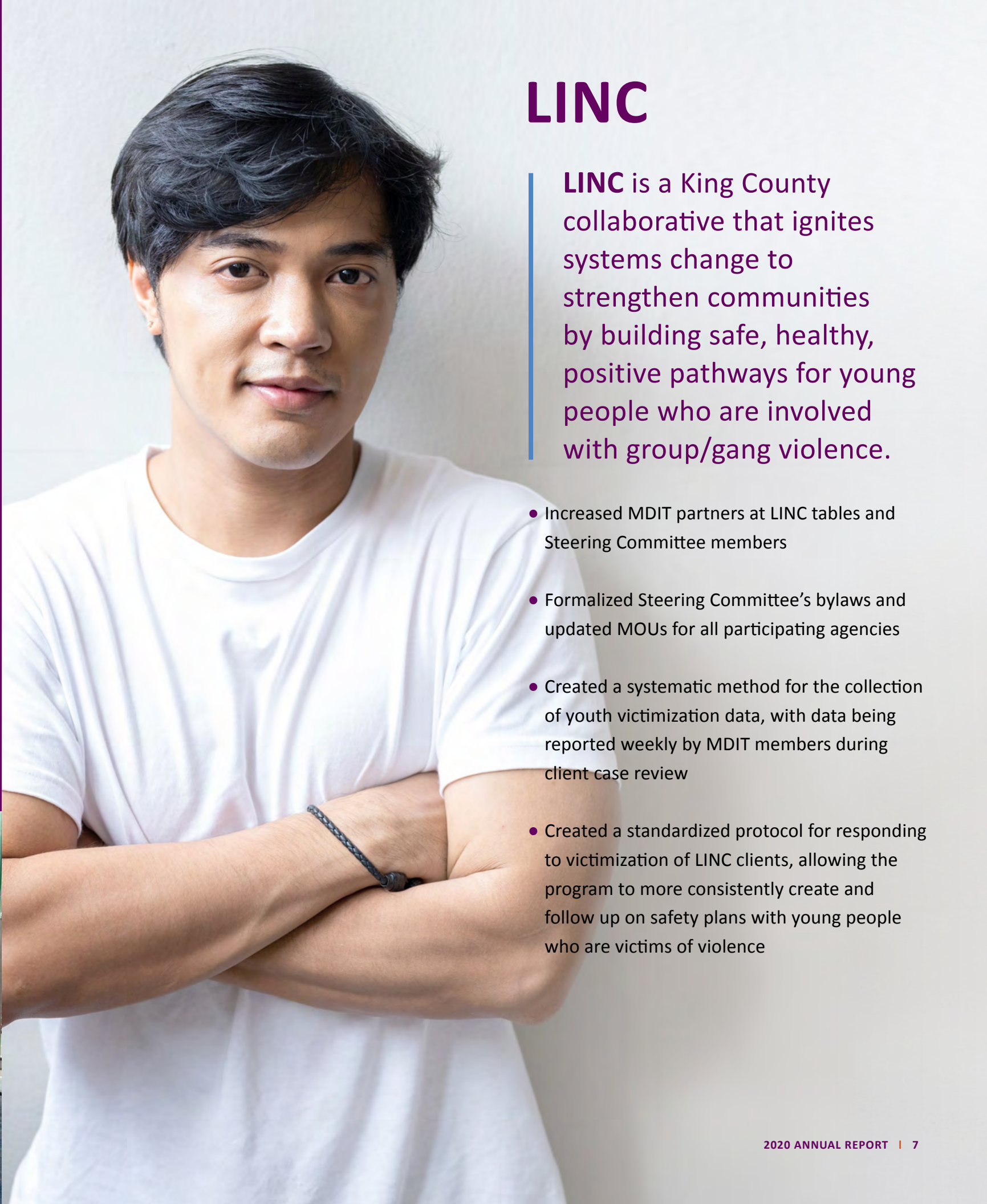
- Worked with partners to bridge the gap for professionals working with at-risk youth so that services would continue as close as possible to pre-COVID-19 levels
- Meetings moved from phone calls to Zoom and saw attendance grow by **25%**
- Virtual trainers presented to task force and shared best practices and addressed the latest developments, with **86%** of respondents leaving with new ideas on how to improve service delivery to young people
- **566** individuals (our largest attendance ever) attended our 4-day conference, including a few registered guests from the state of Oregon—more than doubling the number of attendees from the previous year



# LINC

LINC is a King County collaborative that ignites systems change to strengthen communities by building safe, healthy, positive pathways for young people who are involved with group/gang violence.

- Increased MDIT partners at LINC tables and Steering Committee members
- Formalized Steering Committee’s bylaws and updated MOUs for all participating agencies
- Created a systematic method for the collection of youth victimization data, with data being reported weekly by MDIT members during client case review
- Created a standardized protocol for responding to victimization of LINC clients, allowing the program to more consistently create and follow up on safety plans with young people who are victims of violence



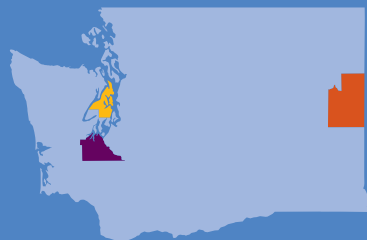


# Strengthening Early Relationships

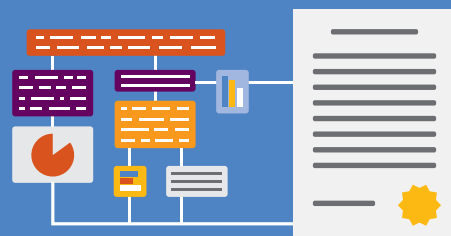
CCYJ entered a partnership with ZERO TO THREE – a national nonprofit – to expand the Safe Babies Court Team™ (SBCT) approach across Washington. SBCT is a systems-change initiative focused on how courts, child welfare, and child-serving organizations work together to support children in, or at risk of entering, the child welfare system.



CCYJ developed a comprehensive plan to bring the Safe Babies Court Team™ approach to Washington state by outlining: the current landscape of Washington’s infants and toddlers involved in the child welfare system; structures necessary to launch the approach; legislative and funding strategies for sustainability; an expansion plan to support further growth in coming years; and a data and evaluation component to ensure equitable services.



CCYJ received a one-year, \$425,000 grant to launch the SBCT approach in Kitsap, Thurston, and Spokane counties, as well as develop a state-level oversight structure and evaluation process.

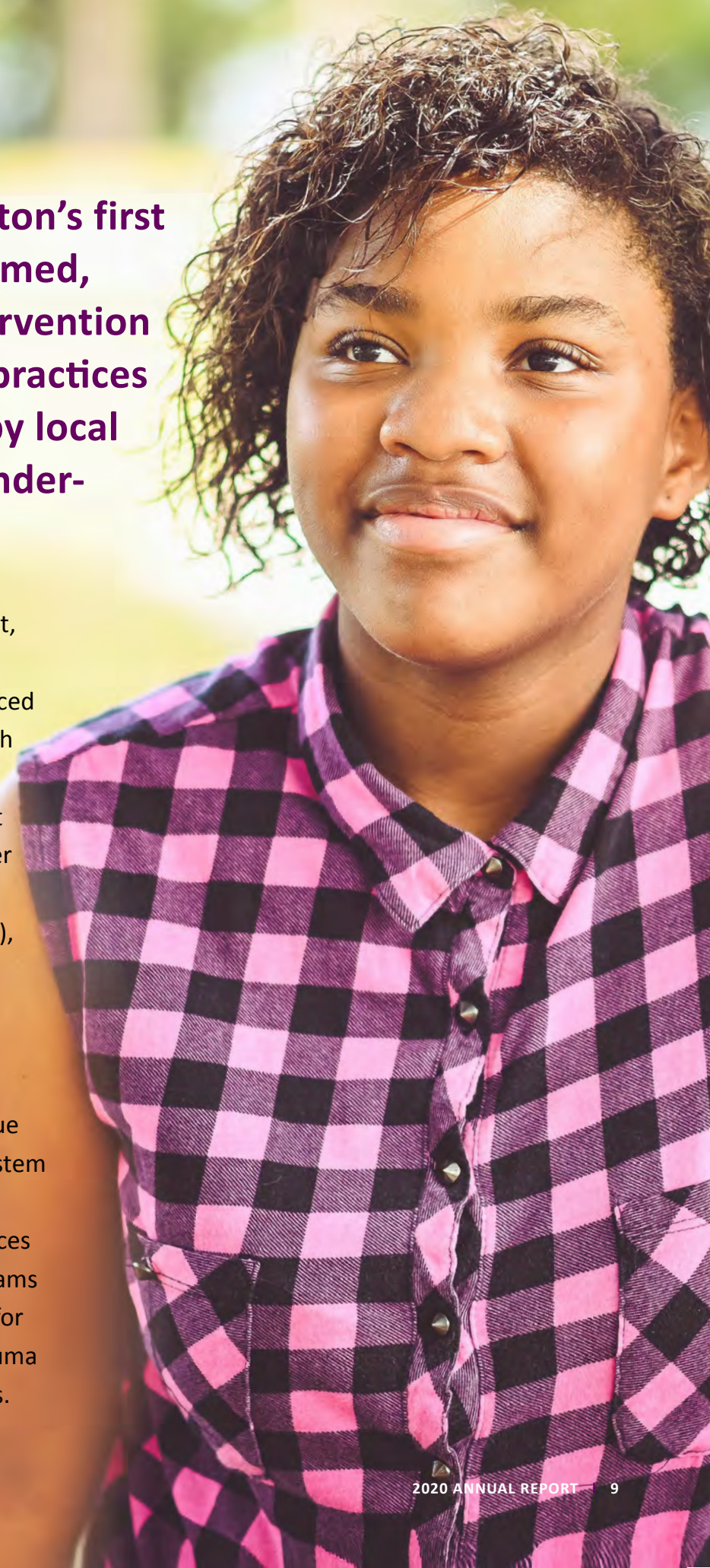


CCYJ mapped a strategy that codifies a standard of practice for Baby Courts in Washington State, and introduced legislation during the 2021 session.

# Girls Court

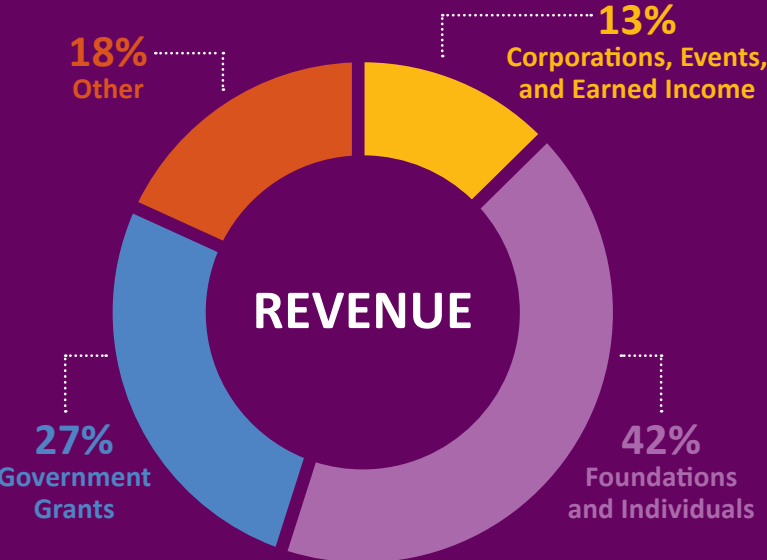
**Girls Court is Washington’s first and only trauma-informed, therapeutic court intervention model based on best practices and research, driven by local data and rooted in gender-responsive principles.**

- Supported the evaluation of Girls Court, which identified key challenges and experiences Girls Court participants faced compared to non-participants. Research has found that Girls Court Participants have higher exposure to family conflict and domestic violence (89%) and higher rates of mental health problems (61%) including depression and anxiety (89%), and history of suicidal ideation (28%).
- Began preliminary development of a court model serving male-identified young people by researching the unique trauma and pathways to the justice system experienced by girls and boys; the key differences of gender-responsive services between girls and boys; existing programs that use gender-responsive approach for boys; its overall effectiveness; and trauma informed gender-specific interventions.



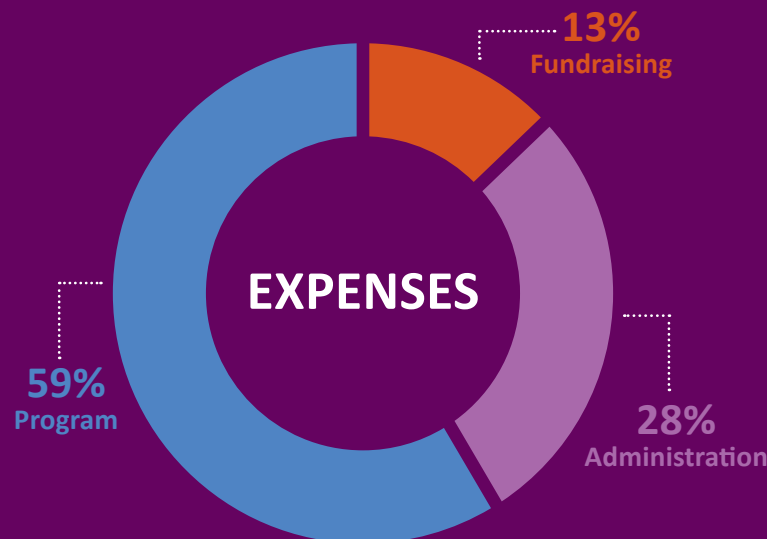


# 2020 Financials



Revenue	
Corporations, Events, and Earned Income	\$305,532
Foundations and Individuals	\$1,002,723
Gov't Grants	\$644,427
Other*	\$421,864
Total	\$2,372,966

\* Includes In-Kind, Investments, and Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) income



Expenses	
Program	\$1,367,548.00
Administration	\$657,436.00
Fundraising	\$311,263.00
Total	\$2,336,247

# Our Sponsors

We are grateful to the following sponsors who generously contributed to our annual event and stood by us when we quickly pivoted from an in-person breakfast to a virtual fundraising campaign.

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In October 2019, CCYJ launched the Justice League – an investor’s society for donors who want to contribute to youth justice and foster care systems in unprecedented and dramatic ways. Members of the Justice League contribute \$1,000 or more each year—a commitment that will have a lasting impact on our forgotten youth.

- Trailblazers (\$50,000+)**

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# Who We Are

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**With your help, CCYJ will continue to create partnerships that affect lasting changes.**

Together, we are creating better lives for generations of children and youth by reforming the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.





Center for Children & Youth Justice

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