



**HOUSING
CONNECT
FUND**

Annual Report 2020-2021

Message from the Chair and Executive Director

We are excited to share with you the first “official” annual report of Housing Connect Fund. Housing Connect Fund, established in 2020, was formed to elevate our work to enhance the services and support made available to residents of Housing Connect’s housing. The Fund takes the reins from Housing Opportunities, Inc, our first 501(c)3 that was founded in 1994, and will continue the critical and long standing partnerships that ensure services remain a part of the solution to expand access to affordable housing.

Housing Connect Fund’s mission to enhance the affordable housing opportunities offered by Housing Connect by ensuring residents are connected with programs and supportive services that enrich their lives and anchor thriving communities.

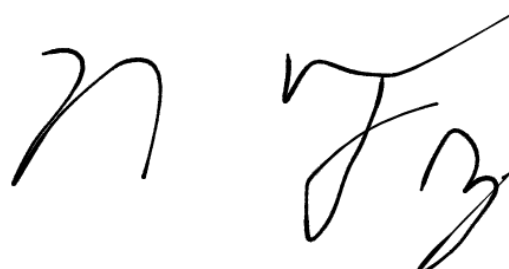
As we start this new endeavor, we do so with gratitude for the great efforts that came before. The year began on solid financial and operational footing. The Board of Trustees was formed, bringing together diverse expertise in the areas of: food security, education, social impact investing, housing, and lived experience. The board completed a strategic planning process, in alignment with Housing Connect’s 5-year goals, that identified two areas of focus: diversify funding and continue to provide supportive services to assure residents are able to maintain housing and improve well-being. This process identified the Social Determinants of Health as an important framework to guide the work we do, which led to its adoption in October, 2020.

6 Areas of Focus:

- Housing Stability
- Education Access
- Financial Health
- Food Security
- Health Access
- Community Connection

To those who have supported the work of Housing Opportunities, Inc over the years. and continue with us now at Housing Connect Fund, we thank you! If you are seeking an opportunity to make a meaningful and measurable difference in your community, we invite you to learn more about what we do. Join us in our effort to ensure everyone in Salt Lake County has access to affordable housing and the support they need to thrive.

Sincerely,



Nick Fritz
Chair, Board of Trustees



Zachary Bale
Executive Director

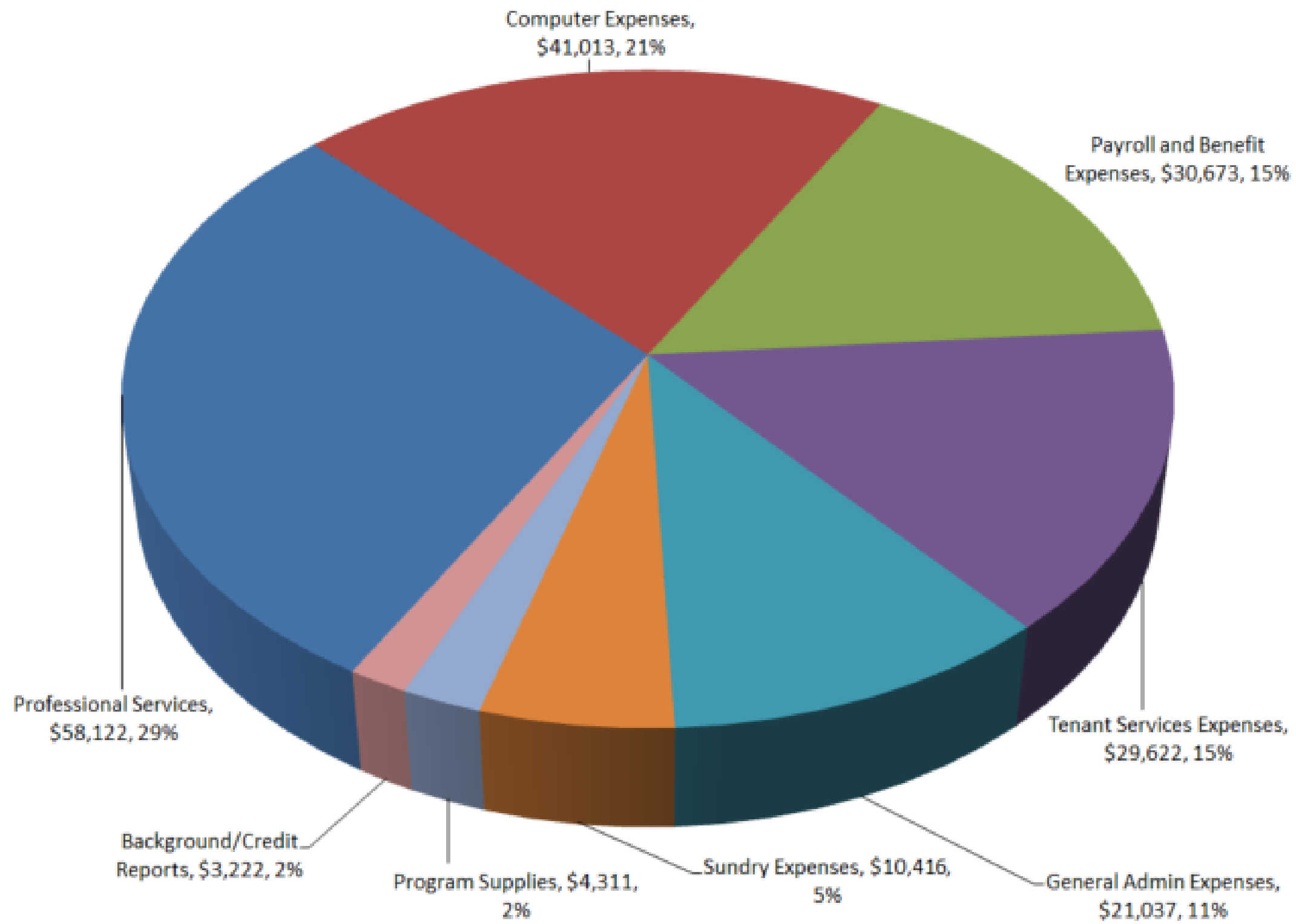
Mission

Housing Connect Fund enhances affordable housing opportunities by ensuring Housing Connect residents are connected with programs and supportive services that enrich their lives and anchor the communities in which they live.

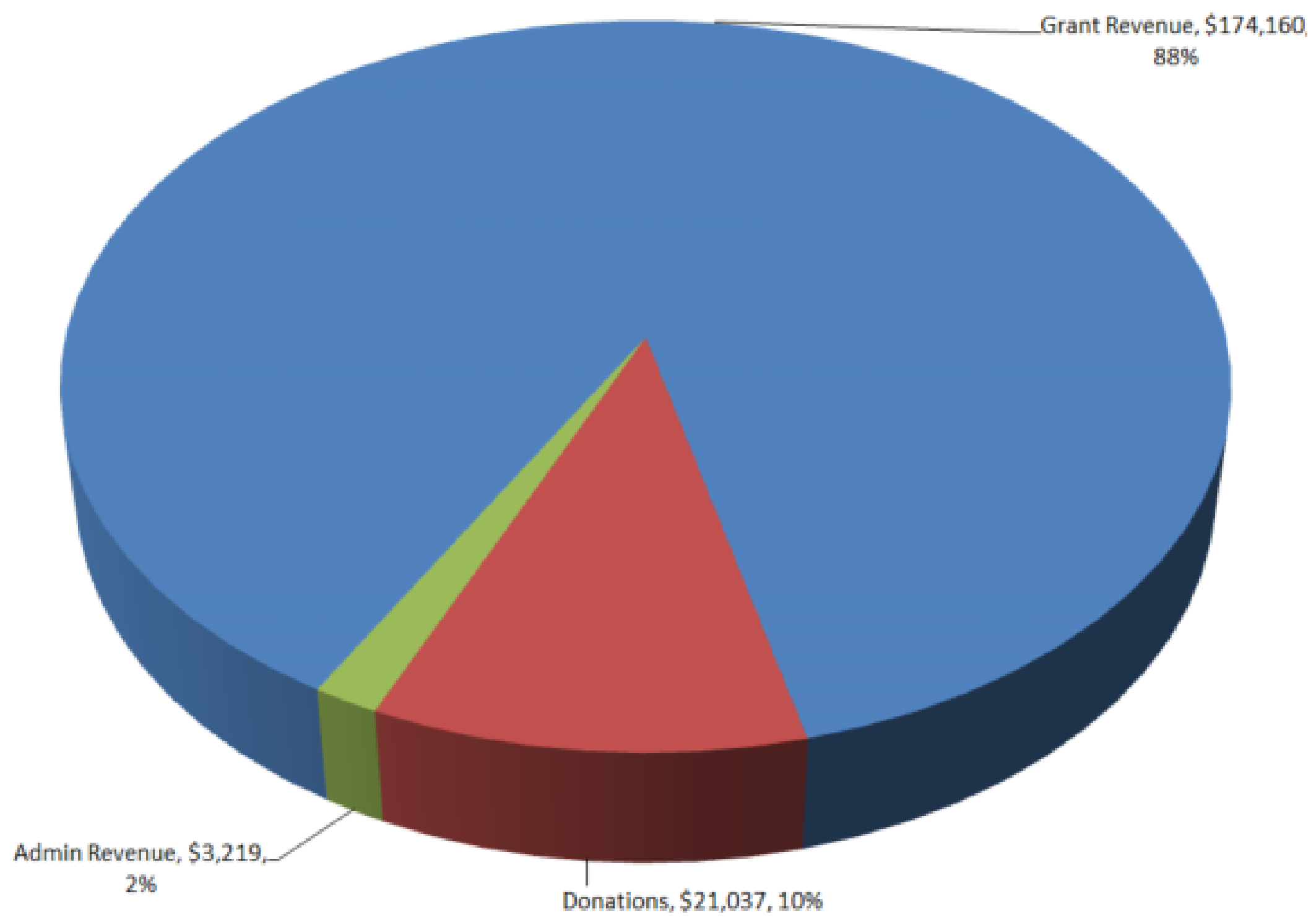


Statement of Financial Activities

Total Expenses
\$198,415



Total Revenue
\$198,415



Resident Services Demographics

Housing Connect Fund is committed to providing supportive services to low-income families and individuals that promote self-sufficiency through our resident services programs. During the 2020-21 FY, we served **1,895** households.

BRIDGING THE GAP

Addressing gaps in services for financial capability, employment, education, transportation and homeownership. For the 2020-21 year, there were 166 total participants.

84 PARTICIPANTS INCREASED THEIR EARNED INCOME

57 PARTICIPANTS OBTAINED EMPLOYMENT

37 PARTICIPANTS INCREASED OR MAINTAINED THEIR CREDIT SCORES

2 PARTICIPANTS PURCHASED HOMES

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

A model that combines low-barrier affordable housing, health care, and supportive services to help individuals and families lead more stable lives.

PEOPLE SERVED

Grace Mary Manor

105

Supportive Housing

Approaches that Impact Lives

178

Kelly Benson Apartments

65

High Rise

115

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

Promotes healthy development through direct service programs, community resource connections, and network opportunities for families.



83% of children screened are on target for their developmental level.



97% of parents reported an increase in understanding their child's development.

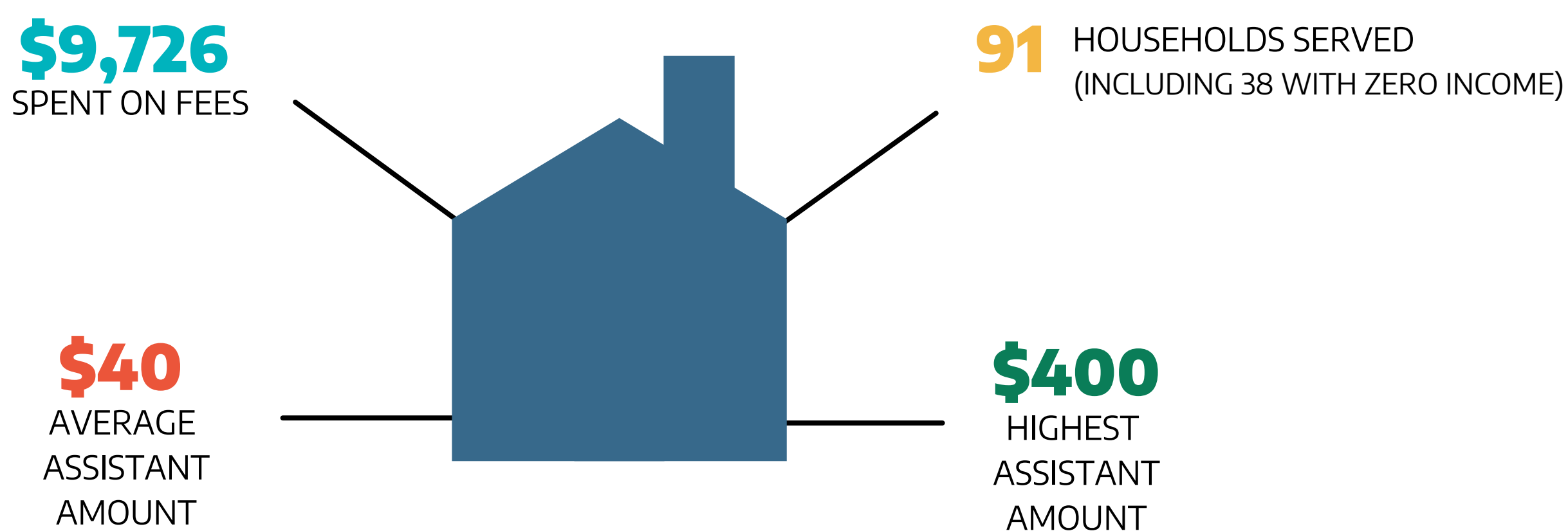


100% of parents reported that they have increased their resource connection.

Highlights

BARRIER REMOVAL FUND

The BRF is designed to increase access to affordable housing by removing the known barriers of low-income individuals and families. Barriers include: application fees, money for rental deposit, and other fees. Oftentimes, clients who are deemed eligible for housing assistance through Housing Connect have difficulty utilizing the rental assistance due to barriers to housing entry. The BRF addresses those barriers to entry.



CLIENT SUCCESS STORY

One of our clients, Shannon, moved into housing in March 2021 after experiencing years of homelessness. After settling in, she expressed interest in continuing her education and requested resources to obtain her GED. Shannon's case manager connected her with a GED program, as well as with a laptop to use throughout the course. Shannon worked hard to complete the program and graduated while remaining in good standing with her property manager.

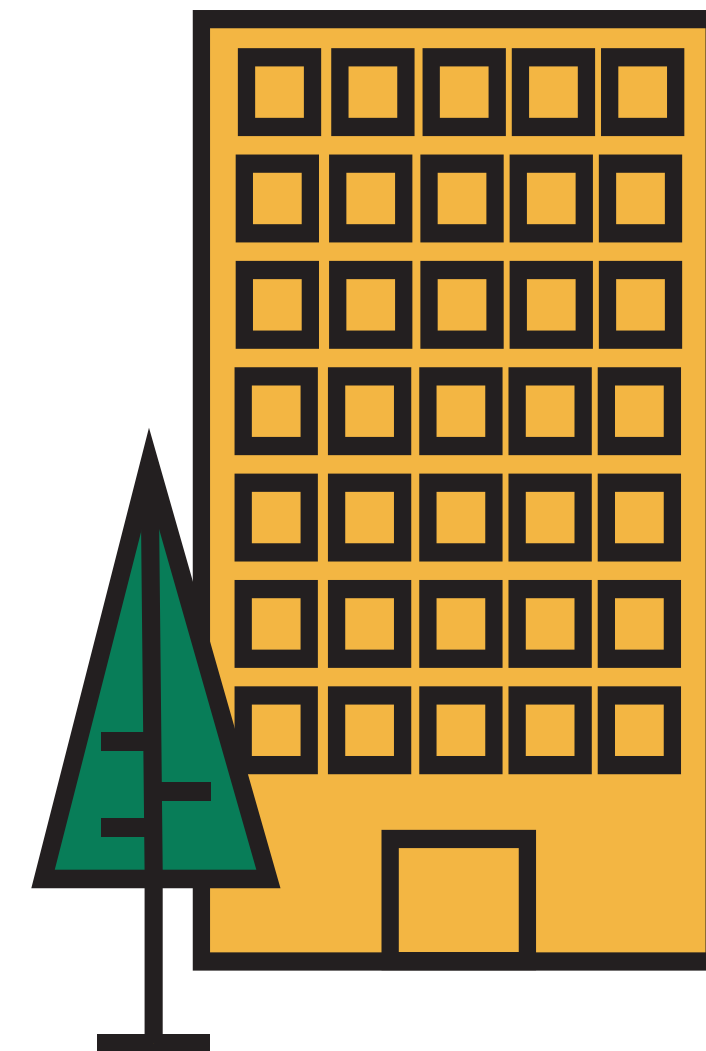
After obtaining her GED, Shannon set her sights on acquiring employment. She worked with her case manager to apply for jobs in the area. Shannon remained steadfast and dedicated to accomplishing her goal, even as obstacles began to arise. Due to unforeseen circumstances, her family put her housing at risk. However, Shannon reached out to her case manager for support. The two worked together to help her come up with a plan that was realistic and sustainable for her in order to help her stay housed. She also worked with her case manager to connect to resources for utility assistance after being unable to pay arrears to the utility company.

As a result of the communication and teamwork between Shannon, her case manager, and property management, Shannon felt empowered to set boundaries with her family and was able to square away her account with the utility company. She was also able to fulfill her goal and obtained a job as a waitress at a local diner.

Highlights

NEW PARTNERSHIP: Intermountain Healthcare

Housing Connect Fund is proud to be a new partner of Intermountain Healthcare whose mission is helping people live the healthiest lives possible. In alignment with IHC Health Services initiatives, Housing Connect Fund adopted the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Framework to guide strategic planning, goal setting, and program development. Housing Connect Fund has chosen six priority areas under the SDoH framework; Financial Health, Food Quality & Stability, Housing Stability, Education Connection, Health Access & Connection, and Community Connection. This new partnership allowed for Housing Connect Fund to begin impacting Housing Stability through hiring a Housing Stability Specialist (HSS).



The Housing Stability Specialist is responsible for focusing efforts around housing stability and retention by offering a wide variety of services to address issues that may be threatening a family's housing assistance. The HSS develops and maintains a comprehensive network of resources related to housing stability to provide tenants a community support system. Below is one example of the impact has made:

Mohamed was referred to the Housing Stability Specialist upon being notified of owing \$5,589 to their current landlord when they submitted a request to move. Housing Connect also learned that Mohamed had got married, but had not added his wife to his voucher. When doing the "add on" process, staff received a copy of the lease and learned there had been a rent increase, from \$1,321 to \$1,600. Upon calculating back rent, the Section 8 team informed Mohamed that the increased amount was his responsibility. To avoid eviction, the HSS worked with the landlord and tenant to reach an agreement to pay back the rent owed. The HSS drafted a payment plan and both parties signed the agreement. Additionally, there was concern that the household could lose their Section 8 assistance due to the amount owed. The HSS facilitated an agreement with the Section 8 team to continue rent assistance. The household signed a stipulation to not terminate their voucher by agreeing to repayment of rent owed. In the end, Mohamed and his family were able to keep their voucher and move into a new unit.

Since project inception, March-June 2021, the Housing Stability Specialist received a total of 91 total referrals. The most common services provided were landlord mediation and assistance with paperwork to maintain program eligibility.

Our Partners

**A special thanks to our donors
who make our work possible.**

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Masonic Foundation

Morgan Stanley

Rocky Mountain Power Foundation

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US Bank Foundation

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Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees consists of seven members. Board members are recognized leaders in the community who use their varied areas of expertise to formulate policies and approve programs for Housing Connect Fund

Nick Fritz - Chair

Sarah Canham - Vice Chair

Kareem Balance

Gina Cornia

Claustina Mahon-Reynolds

Caroline Ross

Christine Nguyen