



ANNUAL REPORT

2021/2022

Prepared by
Alberta Immigrant Women & Children Centre

www.aiwcc.ca



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

AIWCC acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 Territory, traditional homelands for many Indigenous peoples including Nehiyaw, Saulteaux, Niitsitapi, Metis, Dene, and Nakota. We pay our respects to the Elders past and present who call this land home.

With this acknowledgment, we remind ourselves of the responsibilities we have as Treaty people to understand our shared colonial history, hear the stories Indigenous people tell us about the inequities they still live today, and recommit ourselves to working together towards a just future.



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Our Board is continuously striving to support the amazing ED and staff of Alberta Immigrant Women and Children Centre spread the mission and vision of the organization to serve immigrant women and children in Alberta.

The advent of the pandemic over the last two years made us realize the need to explore new ways of rebranding, streamlining as well as bringing in a clear and concise strategic planning process for the next five years.

We want to thank Board members who are no longer with us who helped plan and bring this plan to fruition. During the course of 2021, we were able to provide more advocacy and involvement in social issues, as we witnessed an exponential rise in violence against hijabi Muslim women in Alberta. It is ingrained in our mandate to be advocates of social justice and against systemic racism in every shape and form.

In 2022 we will focus on increasing our working space by opening new offices in different areas of the city and bringing services closer to more communities. We will lay out plans to implement a clear strategic direction for the programs geared towards working around the client. We are a unique organization led by women in upper management who are passionate about their work, and we want to continue through this path.

We are very proud of the staff at AIWACC for their work in encouraging the clients and providing an incredible operational atmosphere that is not confined to traditional office structure but focused on being responsive to patients. The Board members will continue to chart a new course and will be more present in ensuring our voices are heard in all major platforms of discussions. We are looking forward to another exciting and productive year.

The Board





MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2021 has been a turning point year for our organization. With all the adjustments due to Covid 19 as well as the rise in demand from our clients, we have gone through a radical structural transformation. We have changed our bylaws, produced a new Strategic Development Plan, designed a new website, and rebranded our name and logo. Our new name is Alberta Immigrant Women Children Centre from Somali Canadian Women and Children Centre.

We changed our name because we wanted to be more inclusive and create a more equitable environment and recommit to diversity, inclusion, and equity to maintain a fair and equal treatment for all.

Our operational asset is unique to Alberta because we focus on the specific concerns of immigrant and refugee women and their families. Our distinctiveness is centered on having a gender related mandate which is indicative of best practices in developing female focused initiatives. We will always focus on children, family as well as community wellbeing because our works depends on interconnected social networks.

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Sabra Hashi

Executive Director



WHO WE ARE



PURPOSE

AIWCC is the largest black women led organization in Alberta for women, children, and youth. We have been operating for over twelve years in bettering the lives of newcomer families and children.



VISION

Enriched Canadian society where immigrant women and their children are thriving active citizens.



MISSION

To provide support to immigrant women and children in Alberta.

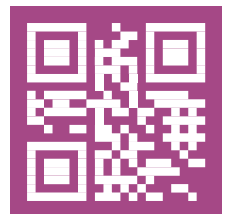


CORE VALUES

For us to be able to deliver our mandate and achieve the vision that we strive for, the following values guide our actions and interactions as we serve for this organization. These values are the foundational cornerstones for every one of our staff, volunteers and management and board of directors.



Scan QR code to visit our website



CORE VALUES



Respect

We respect every individual regardless of their conditions and background



Collaborative

We carry our work collaboratively and we believe collaboration is the only lever to make a difference



Integrity

Integrity is a key for our work, and we held integrity very high



Diversity

We believe in diversity, and we strive to be diverse team



Inclusivity

We make every effort to have open minded and intentional to be inclusive in our work and no one is left behind



Accountability

We are accountable to our funders, communities, and clients



Fairness

We strive to be fair in our decisions and dedications and services



Equity

We deliver our services with equity lenses

THE TEAM

2021 STAFF MEMBERS

Sahra Hashi,
Executive Director

Dallas Gumbo,
Accountant

Souleka Mustapha Moussa,
Director of Programs and Services

Fowzia Isse,
Women & Family Empowerment Coordinator

Abdirahman Ibrahim,
Youth caseworker

Binto Aden,
Youth caseworker

Shukri Othman,
Youth Facilitator

Hussein Abdi Hussein,
Youth Facilitator

Ahmed Dubow,
Youth Facilitator

Nadira Igal,
Youth Facilitator

Mustafa Elhawi,
Hippy Coordinator

Mirvat Ikar,
Hippy Home Visitor

Florida Kidane,
Hippy Home Visitor

Eman Alshweih,
Hippy Home Visitor

Nuria Mahmoud,
Hippy Home Visitor

Lula Abdulah,
ELL instructor

2021 STAFF MEMBERS

Rabeha Kadri,
ELL instructor support

Barlin Halane,
Community Outreach Support
worker

Amina Mohamed,
Childminding worker

Safiyi Xoaji,
Janitorial staff

2021 BOARD MEMBERS

Aurelia Uarsama - *Chair*

Abigail Mensah - *Vice Chair*

Liban Hassan - *Treasurer*

Miski Abdihalim - *Secretary*

Sheila Greckol - *Director*

Ahmed Ainab - *Director*

Asmaa Ali - *Director*

Asha Farah - *Director*

Osman Noor - *Director*

Mohamud Shakib - *Director*

Sumaya Musse - *Director*



PROGRAM AND SERVICES



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

The Women and Family Empowerment Program offers newcomers women opportunities to learn new skills, practice conversational English and meet friends in an effort to reduce isolation. Our WFEP is a safe, welcoming environment where newcomer and immigrant women can access different support services.

Some Outcomes include:

- Greater women's inclusivity and leadership
- Increased opportunities for women's education, employment, and entrepreneurship
- Improved women's rights and security, including reduced gender-based violence
- Greater equity, inclusion, and opportunities for vulnerable women.

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FAMILY SERVICES

Our services are geared towards offering comprehensive and inclusive programs that benefit all family members with complex needs. The goal is to build healthy and resilient families. We offer strategies and skills to help build strong family relationships which include:

- Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY)
- Kinship programs
- Positive parenting
- Family counseling

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HIPPY PROGRAM

Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) is an evidence-based program that works in the home to support vulnerable and isolated mothers in their critical role as their child's first and most important teacher.

HIPPY's approach is designed to get mothers to be their child's first teacher. We at AIWCC try to give the mothers an opportunity to be successful teachers through a structured program and curriculum. To do this, we gave them all the tools and guidance they needed. The idea of home visiting and roleplaying have been adopted as efficient methodologies in our HIPPY program.

The core of the HIPPY program is a structured weekly home visit that:

- Delivering a curriculum based on the needs of preschool children to become school ready.
- Recognizes roleplaying as the method of teaching the skills needed to implement the child-centered curriculum.
- Features a peer home visitor system that enables mothers who may be hard to reach due to social isolation, low income, language to feel comfortable participating in the program.
- Offers well-trained peer home visitors, who deliver 30 weeks of high-quality curriculum activities directly to mothers. They then work 15-20 minutes a day with their own three-, four-, and five-year-old children.

"My daughter did not know how to color but she began picking colors and drawing pictures after joining HIPPY.. I'm able to read and teach my kids with help from the Home Visitor and the AIWCC team..I've learnt new teaching techniques including role play which I can use with my child now.."

Since joining HIPPY, many of the mothers have shown interest in higher education for themselves. They are seeking help for filling out applications and determining pre-requisite courses for the programs they are interested in. Some of the mothers are looking into adult schooling for career options.



SETTLEMENT AND INTEGRATION

The Settlement and Integration Program assists immigrants and refugees through the provision of multilingual and multicultural services in order to facilitate their successful adaptation and integration processes in Canada. We work with a broad range of community service providers and partners to enhance collective community settlement and integration capacities to sensitize the mainstream service providers to be more responsive to the needs of newcomers in Edmonton.

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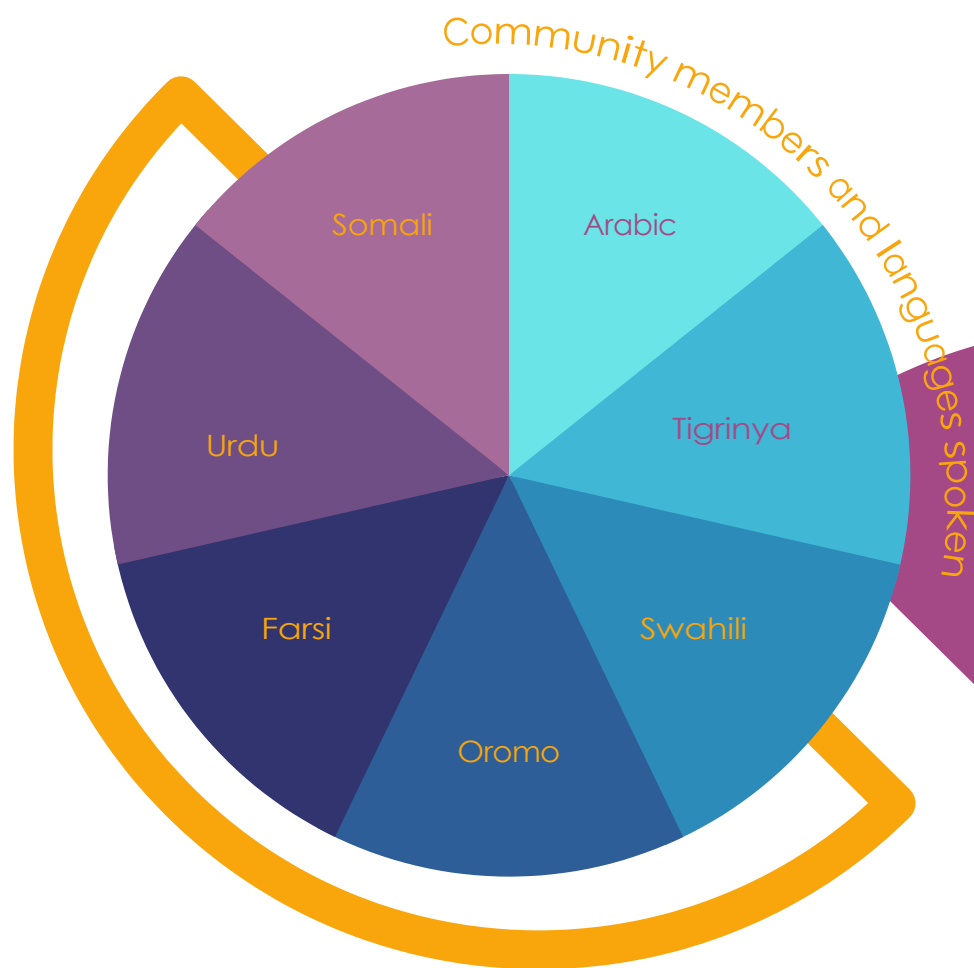
SENIORS PROGRAM

Social Inclusion for Seniors

For many seniors, the COVID-19 pandemic has upended their lives, social connections in addition to public health guidelines that have left many with a feeling of isolation and loneliness. This has contributed to their normal routines being disrupted as they had no longer access to essential community support services which they had heavily relied on, as the closure of these places including worship spaces and local businesses were longer available and accessible due to the risks posed by COVID-19. AIWCC seeks to promote a sense of connection, communication and belonging, improved mental health and enhance senior participation and reduce social isolation through services like weekly conversation circles, field trips and digital literacy.

"This is the first time since I came to Canada to participate in such activities with other seniors.."

"I very much like the different programs provided to us,, especially the mental health and recreational activities which helped me the most in breaking my isolation,, meeting other seniors and making new friends.."



LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Our language program allows learners to engage with their peers to focus on building knowledge about our community while developing their English language skills. Every session works to increase the use of authentic practices and integrate the English language into the everyday lives of newcomers and immigrants.

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PROGRAM AND SERVICES



EMPLOYMENT READINESS

The new work environment newcomers experience in Canada is very different than their home country. They need continued support in acquiring certain skills that are new to them. We provide the essential skills needed to acquire, maintain, and grow within a job such as:

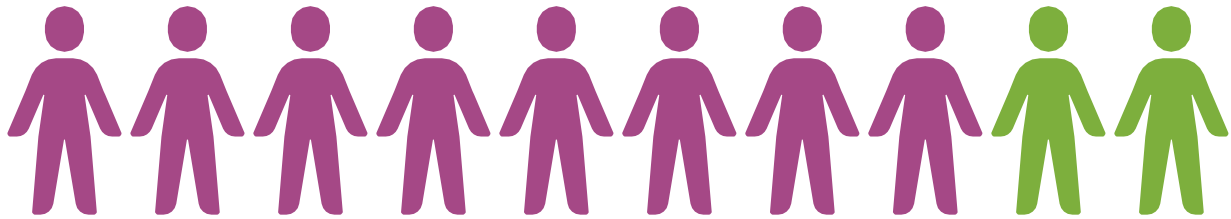
- Networking tips
- Canadian workplace culture
- Interview tips
- Resume building
- Labour market tips

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6,403



Number of children/youth served

YOUTH PROGRAM

Our youth program focuses on areas that promote the learning, leadership, and social-emotional development of youth. We offer dynamic and fun ways to engage the youth and the main goals are to:

- Increase opportunities to build academic skills
- Boost opportunities to build social-emotional development
- Making more connections through leadership and mentorship opportunities
- Improve school and academic networks for the betterment of scholastic achievements
- Encourage civic engagement through increased opportunities for volunteerism.

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140, 810 KG



Food distributed

FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM

With Covid 19 and its aftermath, the need to secure food and new ways to support the nutritional needs and its disbursement in a timely manner have been redefined. We partnered with the Food Bank and various donors to assist newcomer families. In addition to providing food, we also have collective kitchen programs and workshops on healthy eating and nutrition.

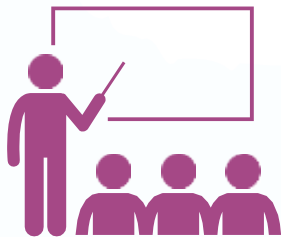
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OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

5 
Programs

 **32**
Services

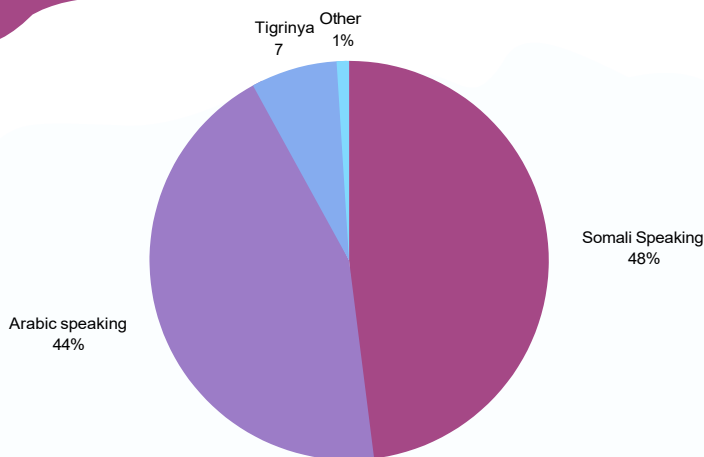


105

Workshops delivered in 2021

 **3,754**
Adults served

 **1,028**
Seniors served



58,276
Volunteer hours



2,400
practicum
students hours

Language of clients served as a percentage

Scan to donate to our programs



FUNDERS AND PARTNERS

Many thanks to our funders, donors and partners. Without your continuous support and great generosity, we wouldn't be where we are. Your support help us further our mission and vision of empowering immigrant women and children.

FUNDERS

City of Edmonton
Government of Alberta
The Stollery Charitable Foundation
Employment and Social Development Canada
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
Canada
Edmonton Community Foundation
Out of School Time Collaborative (OST)
Penny Appeal Canada
Public Health Agency of Canada
Foundation for Black Communities
Edmonton Community Adult Learning
Association (ECALA)

PARTNERS

Human Concern International
Islamic Relief Canada
Alberta Association of Immigrant
Serving Agencies (AAISA)
Canada HomeCare Group
Edmonton Food Bank
Edmonton Public Schools
Edmonton Catholic Schools
Mothers Matter Centre
REACH EDMONTON



FUNDERS AND PARTNERS

 Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada

 Alberta
Government

 EDMONTON
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION



 Service
Canada



 pennyappeal canada
small change. big difference



 HUMAN CONCERN
INTERNATIONAL

 aaisha

 edmonton
arts
council

 EDMONTON
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

 the
Stollery
charitable foundation

 EDMONTON
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

 EDMONTON'S
FOODBANK

 ECALA
Alberta's Literacy

 Canada
Homecare
Group

 EDMONTON
HERITAGE COUNCIL

 MOTHERS
MATTER Centre
PROUD HOME OF THE
HIPPIY PROGRAM IN CANADA

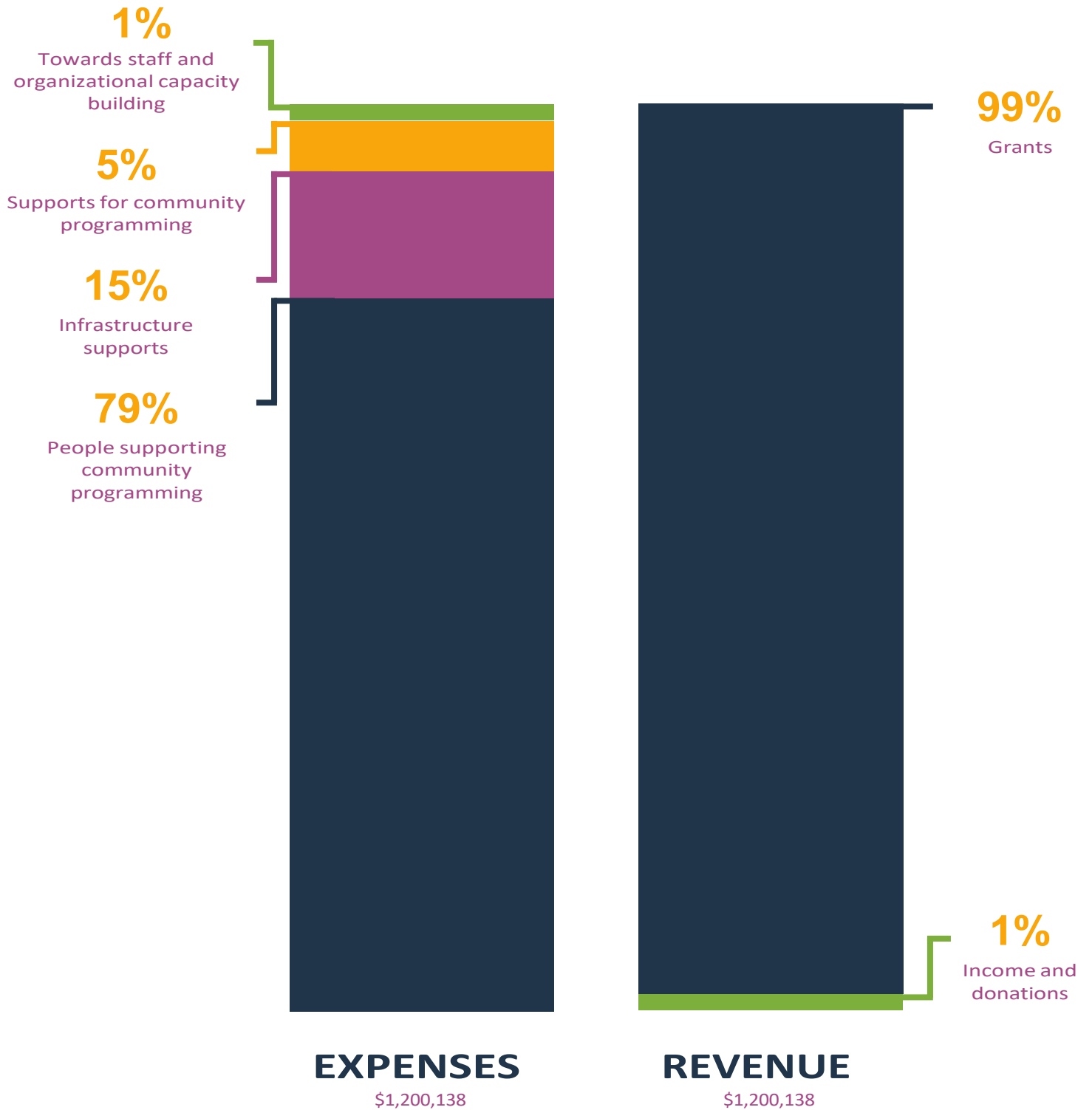
 United Way
Alberta Capital Region

 Public Health
Agency of Canada / Agence de la santé
publique du Canada



YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

FINANCIALS



YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

FINANCIALS

ASSETS

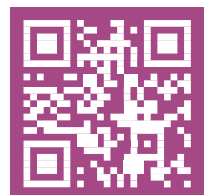
\$526,066



LIABILITIES

\$526,066

Scan to donate to our programs





CONTACT US



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8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m Monday to Friday



[@aiwccyeg](#)