



2022 / Annual Report



PEER
WASHINGTON
HOPE – RECOVERY – PRIDE



Letter from Our CEO & President

If I had to pick one word to describe 2022, it would be *challenging*. In the broader community we saw the continuing reverberations of the pandemic as people struggled to come back from isolation and loss of connection. And we saw the devastating spread of deadly substances such as fentanyl, with overdose rates reaching levels never previously seen.



Internally, we were dealing with organizational challenges. We launched several new programs, more than doubling both our staff and budget. This caused some growing pains made worse by the extremely tight labor market. By the spring, we realized that to be successful we were going to need to retrench and rethink how we recruit, support, and reward our staff.

Thankfully, as peers, we know how to deal with *challenging*. We understand through our own lived experience the persistence and hard work it takes to move through challenging to get to healing. To get to hope. To get to positive change. Together, Peer Washington's community dove into doing what needed to be done.

We provided additional support to staff who were working over and above to bring our new programs online. We increased compensation across the board to ensure all our staff are paid competitive, living wages reflective of the difficult and meaningful work they do. We brought in a consultant to help us take a hard look at how we do — or do not — walk our talk regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion, and then laid the groundwork for a DEI initiative that will be launched in 2023.

In 2022 it became more apparent than ever that Peer Washington's capacity to be there day after day for our community is grounded in the health, wellbeing, and resilience of our staff and volunteers. And if I had to pick one word to describe the people I have the honor of working alongside, it would be inspiring. So maybe I will change my word for 2022; or maybe as Peer Washington moves into whatever 2023 has in store for us, I will rest in knowing that challenging and inspiring are both central to what Peer Washington is all about.

With Deep Gratitude,

Joshua A. Wallace
CEO & President



DEI / Spotlight

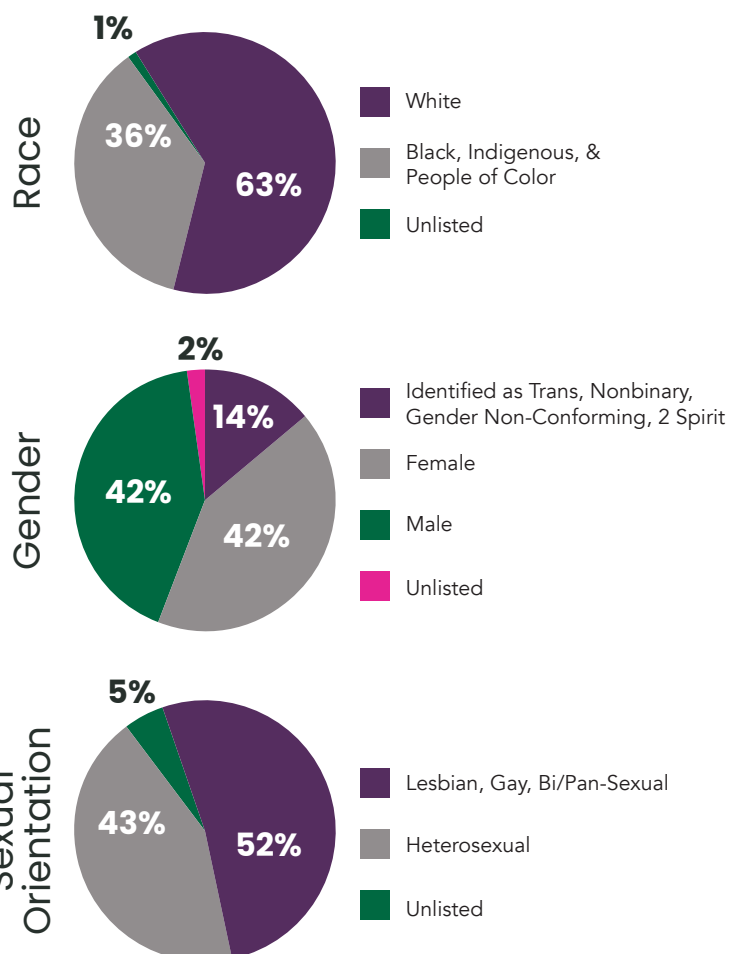
We are not where we want or need to be as an organization. We are not now an anti-racist, anti-white-supremacist entity. But we are committed to achieving this goal. In 2022, we did some of the hard work necessary to move forward in our individual and organizational journey toward diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice. Action steps we took included the following:

Participating in trainings such as Wrestling with the Truth of Colonization

Contracting with Aim & Build Consulting & Development who led an internal DEI process that began with in-depth interviews across Peer Washington and culminated in a report detailing opportunities for improvement and change

Holding 2 day-long workshops that brought together staff from every Peer Washington site to create a guiding plan for our DEI transformation work

Staff Demographics





Highlights

One highlight of the year at **Peer Seattle** was the growth in our peer coach capacity — it increased by 78%! This meant we were able to serve more members than ever with 1:1 peer coaching while also having broader demographic and lived experience diversity within our coaching pool, assuring coaches and their recoverees were well aligned.

Peer Seattle was also excited to become home to a new vending machine where anyone can access lifesaving Narcan and fentanyl test strips at no charge. These resources are in such high demand we have to restock the machine multiple times a month.

This year we worked to grow services for the LGBTQ community and people living with HIV/AIDS. With funding from King County, we embedded a Peer Services Specialist (PSS) with community partners Roots Youth Shelter and the Ballard Food Bank to engage with people who identify as LGBTQ and could use peer support. We also reenergized our connection with UTest, which had been paused by the pandemic, opening for free anonymous HIV/AIDS testing every Thursday evening, and launched a new support group for people living with HIV.

By the Numbers



922

total individuals served



330

supportive housing & supported employment participants



163

Peer Coaching participants



37

unique support groups



Highlights

Peer Kent's third year of serving our community was all about our members, volunteers, staff, and community partners. We focused on ensuring that Peer Kent is an enriching, rewarding place to heal, recover, grow, and work. We expanded the trainings we offered to our community, fostered stronger connections with our coaches, group facilitators, and other volunteers, solidified channels for members and staff to grow and take on new responsibilities, and ensured our staff were being fairly and competitively compensated for the meaningful work they do.

To enhance our support for people who are justice-involved, we continued our work with King County Drug Diversion Court and launched the new South King County Municipal Court Peer Integration Project that embeds peers within the Municipal Courts of Federal Way, Des Moines, and Renton. We also deepened our community connections, expanding bi-directional referrals with treatment partners like Cascade Treatment and Valley Cities, holding a toy drive on behalf of Jacob's Ladder, partnering with Neighborhood House in new HIV testing, and opening our space to Alternatives to Violence for a monthly workshop series. We were thrilled and honored in November to be awarded Catholic Community Services' Spirit of Caring award!

By the Numbers



1694

total individuals served*



280

supportive housing & supported employment participants



153

Peer Coaching participants



42

unique support groups

**Includes folks served in KCLS, SKCMCPIP, and KCDDC partner programs managed out of Peer Kent.*



Highlights

Peer Spokane was hopping in 2022! Our membership continued to grow as people searched out social connection and support. This growth was reflected in our services. We began the year with four active support groups; by the end of 2022 we had 14 thriving groups! We were also excited to have three of our staff trained by Better Health Together and certified as Navigators to help people sign up for Medicare or Apple Health.

Housing continued to be one of the primary needs among our members. We were thrilled when the Spokane Housing Authority selected Peer Spokane to administer two housing vouchers per month. Our Supportive Housing staff worked with members to prepare them, including delivering the Road to Renting class, and by December 31st 10 individuals and families had successfully accessed housing vouchers and were well on their way to having a stable place to call home.

This year we launched several new partnership initiatives. Working with AARP, we began an 18-month internship program for people 55 or older. We piloted hosting a PSS afternoon once per week in a Spokane library. In conjunction with the Spokane Health District, we opened once a month as a free, confidential site for HIV and STI testing. And, working closely with Priority Spokane, we launched the Spokane County Peer Network, a new education and support network for people working in the peer services sector that by year's end had 170 members representing 15 different organizations.

By the Numbers



542

total individuals served



191

supportive housing & supported employment participants



140

Peer Coaching participants



25

unique support groups



Highlights

2022 at **Peer Olympia**, our first full year of serving our community, focused on continuing to ramp up services for members. We expanded our opening hours to include Saturdays and built a pool of 57 trained volunteers with another five interns funded through a partnership with WorkSource and the Thurston Chamber of Commerce. Our Healing for Healers and Dialectical Behavior Therapy groups had attendees from around Washington. And our busy front-desk staff and volunteers have become experts on resources and services available around south Puget Sound, providing an average of 250 referrals per month for shelter beds, behavioral health treatment, employment support, and food, clothing, and other basic need supplies.

Housing is the number one need we are seeing, with 64% of members unhoused when they first come through our doors. Weaving together funding sources, our Supportive Housing PSS delivered 1:1 assistance and built connections throughout Thurston County. In mid-2022 our region's Coordinated Entry provider announced they were not renewing their contract, leaving people with nowhere to access any type of emergency or transitional housing. This abrupt disruption in an already over-strained system was devastating to our members. In response, we immediately stepped up to help fill the gap. Working closely with the Family Support Center of South Sound, Peer Olympia was the sole organization during several months of transition to provide a weekly, onsite Coordinated Entry Specialist, who completed intakes for individuals experiencing homelessness. Through this effort, over 100 individuals and families accessed housing assistance even as the overall Coordinated Entry system was not functioning.

By the Numbers



435

total individuals served



234

supportive housing & supported employment participants



69

Peer Coaching participants



42

unique support groups



Office of Behavioral Health Advocacy

In 2021, Washington's legislature passed HB 1086, creating a new model for the delivery of behavioral health ombuds services in the state. The law required that these services be moved out from within the state bureaucracy and under the umbrella of a community-based organization. Peer Washington applied for and was honored to be awarded the contract to create and implement the new statewide Office of Behavioral Health Advocacy (OBHA) program.

OBHA is dedicated to protecting the interests of Washingtonians engaged in behavioral health services by providing consulting, resources, advocacy, and mediation for complaints against behavioral health services providers. OBHA officially opened our doors on October 1, 2022, with Advocates working in each of Washington State's 10 regions and a central state-level office.

10

regions served
across the state

99

cases handled from
October to December





Peer Workforce Development

Peer Workforce Development (PWD) is dedicated to developing and supporting Washington's peer workforce. During 2022, our first full year under Peer Washington's umbrella, we delivered training across all of Washington's 39 counties.

There were many highlights for this first year. PWD partnered with Washington's Department of Corrections (DoC) to develop a three-day peer support training for DoC officers working in crisis response units across the state. 33 officers attended the inaugural trainings and earned their peer certification. PWD contracted with the Healthcare Apprenticeship Consortium to lead curriculum development for a new statewide Peer Counselor Apprenticeship program. This exciting new initiative will provide paid apprenticeship opportunities that combine classroom and hands-on learning for college credit. PWD collaborated with the University of Washington's Behavioral Health Institute to write the 250-hour college-level curriculum. With funding support from the Health Care Authority, PWD developed a five-day, 36-hour Crisis Awareness and Communications training for peer support workers in crisis situations. Peer workers from Yakima, Clallam, Spokane, Thurston, and King counties, who completed the pilot training, gave it high marks for addressing the challenges and issues they experienced in their positions. PWD went on to equip 16 people to deliver the training within their own organizations and to others across the state.



17 training sessions provided

14

distinct types of
training

328

participants



RNP

RECOVERY NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

Recovery Navigator Program (RNP)

In 2021 Washington's Governor Inslee signed ESB 5476 into law, requiring the development and implementation of the RNP across the state. The RNP's intent is to address the intersection of individuals with behavioral health needs and law enforcement. Peer Washington was awarded the contract by King County to launch the RNP in the southern region of the county. Peer Washington's RNP uses a peer-centered approach to provide rapid response to referrals from law enforcement and other community organizations, build relationship, and deliver immediate and ongoing recovery support.

48

referrals into the
program

165

CBO
engagements



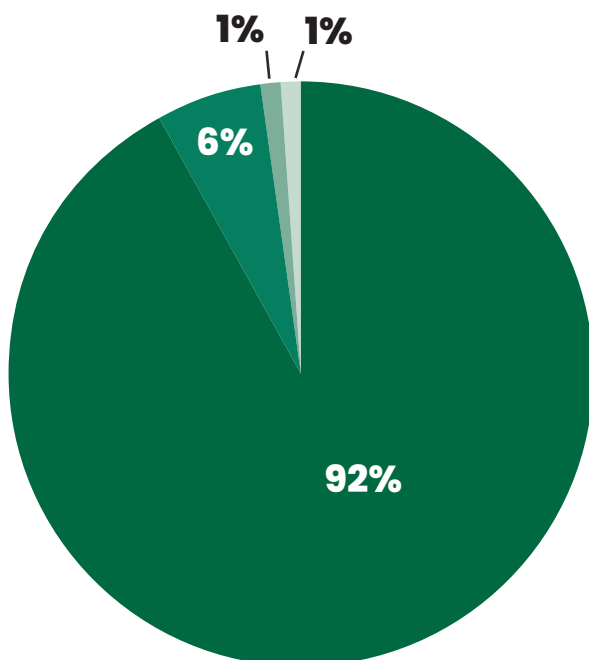
2022 / Financials

\$8,974,345

Total Revenue

\$8,883,123

Total Expenses



Revenue by Category

<div></div>	Contracts	\$8,275,903
<div></div>	Grants	\$555,802
<div></div>	Donations	\$56,359
<div></div>	Miscellaneous	\$86,281

**Preliminary, unaudited financials*

Peer Washington cultivates powerful, healthy lives by providing peer emotional support and development services to disparately impacted communities throughout Washington state.



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