



# POWER INTERFAITH FAITH COURAGE JUSTICE

## 2025 Impact Report





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# A Letter from Our Executive Director

***“2025 asked a lot of us - and we still showed up.”***

On January 1, I stepped into the role of Executive Director knowing we were entering a year that would test our resolve. The political climate has been noisy, uncertain, and heavy. But our call is not to retreat. Across our different faith traditions, we know what this moment requires: courage, discipline, and a deep commitment to one another.



We stand on the shoulders of those who built POWER Interfaith over the past 14 years. Leaders who organized when it wasn't easy. Congregations that chose solidarity over silence. Staff and board members who believed that faith without action is incomplete. I carry deep gratitude for that legacy, and for my brother, Founding Executive Director Bishop Dwayne Royster, whose vision helped plant these seeds.

**“In 2025, we chose to not just inherit that foundation, but to build on it.”**

In Philadelphia, what began as a gathering of a couple hundred people grew into a movement of hundreds more, coming together across neighborhoods and districts to confront the affordability crisis head-on. We are not waiting for change. We are organizing for it. City Council is paying attention because we've made it impossible not to.

Our communities across Pennsylvania are pressing forward in the fight for fully funded public education, refusing to accept systems that leave our children behind. We are challenging lawmakers to meet this moment with boldness and fairness.

Our Climate Justice work is rising again with renewed clarity and purpose. We are organizing for energy that is affordable, sustainable, and rooted in our communities, not extracted from them.

And every day, whether through one-to-one conversations, local meetings, or voter engagement rooted in dignity and truth, we're doing the steady work of building power. Not performative moments. Real relationships. Real accountability. Real change.

Because organizing is how we move from frustration to action. It's how we turn shared pain into shared power.

I am grateful for each of you who gives your time, your voice, your faith to this work. This isn't easy work, but it's necessary...and we're just getting started. In 2026, we will keep building. We will keep organizing. And we will keep standing together, grounded in our faith and clear about what's at stake.

In solidarity,  
Rev. Dr. Gregory Edwards  
Executive Director  
POWER Interfaith



# Letter from our Board of Directors

## POWER Interfaith family, 2025 was quite a year!

On the heels of the 2024 election, while worrying what material and moral challenges the political situation would bring for the next four years, POWER Interfaith's board of directors faced a critical internal transition: filling a senior staff role following Bishop Royster's departure to lead Faith in Action.

We began our process with candid and in depth interviews with all the POWER staff and dozens of POWER leaders. We consulted with partners in the state and with organizing leaders across the country.

In carefully considering our options and the challenges before us, particularly our recommitment to base-building, the board of directors chose to hire the Rev. Dr. Gregory Edwards, who had been serving as our Interim Executive Director, in the permanent role.

With Rev. Edwards' leadership as our Executive Director, POWER's forward movement and growth have surpassed our expectations. Facing such a tumultuous political moment while simultaneously navigating major leadership changes and moving through a cultural reset in our organization has had its challenges! We are deeply grateful to all of POWER's staff, leaders and board members for their hard work, commitment to collaboration and mutual respect as we reset our organizing to build the kind of power we need to transform daunting political realities and improve the lives of every Pennsylvanian.

The job before us is huge, but we are confident in our leadership (in every last leader we identify and raise up!) and sure we are on the path rising to meet the challenge. We ask God's blessing on all of our workers and what we will be able to do together.



Peace with Justice and Solidarity,

Rev. Keitha Wiggins-Kennedy and  
Rev. Michael Roca-Caine, Co-chairs



# Who We Are

*POWER Interfaith is building a transformative movement in Pennsylvania for racial and economic justice on a livable planet.*

**Through deep relational organizing rooted in faith communities, POWER brings together people across race, class, and geography to dismantle systemic inequities, build collective power, and advance policies that allow current and future generations to thrive. Our work centers leadership development, shared moral vision, and collaboration with aligned partners at the municipal, county, and state levels.**





# Organizational Leadership & Strategic Leadership

*In January 2025, POWER Interfaith's Board of Directors appointed Rev. Dr. Gregory J. Edwards as Executive Director*



Rev. Edwards previously served as POWER's Lehigh Valley Director, Chief of Staff, and Acting Executive Director, and has organized with POWER since 2020.

Rev. Edwards worked with the Board to analyze data from 2024 and sharpen POWER's strategic focus for 2025. Together, they prioritized:

- ✓ **Base building over episodic mobilization**
- ✓ **Leadership development over transactional engagement**
- ✓ **Organizing capacity that could sustain long-term wins**



The year began with a Philadelphia meeting on affordable housing, drawing 200+ people at the exact moment the Eagles were playing the NFC Championship game. People stayed. That commitment set the tone for the year.



# Organizing Reach & Leadership Development



**Hundreds of one-to-one conversations conducted statewide**



**10 town halls across 5 counties on education funding and affordable housing**



**500+ community members turned out to public forums**



**60 participants trained at POWERCamp, POWER's inaugural 3-day organizing institute**



**40 Climate Justice & Jobs leaders convened to reset strategy and recommit to base building**

POWER organizing staff also completed a week-long advanced organizing training in June, strengthening internal capacity to train, coach, and sustain leaders.



# Education Justice: State Budget & Fair School Funding

*Leaders from Lancaster, Philadelphia, and across the Commonwealth organized town halls, legislative meetings, rallies, and press actions to demand Pennsylvania meet its constitutional obligation to fully fund public schools.*

- **1,400+ people mobilized statewide**
- **6 regional education town halls**
- **19 Full & Fair Funding Friday actions**
- **28 consecutive weeks of coordinated calls and pressure**
- **Hundreds of millions of dollars secured through the state budget's second adequacy funding installment**

This sustained organizing directly contributed to historic progress on adequacy funding.





# Climate Justice & Energy Affordability

Forty leaders convened in February to assess the work and align around POWER's organizing model. Many participated in POWERCamp and deepened skills in research visits, regulatory engagement, and public testimony.

## Public Education & Engagement

- 4 public workshops on the health and safety risks of natural gas
- 1 virtual PA Climate Lobby Day co-hosted with partners and 300 Pennsylvanians
- Ongoing engagement with PGW, PECO, legislators, and the PA Public Utility Commission



## Major Policy Impact

- PGW rate hike reduced from \$105M to \$65M
- \$40M in additional increases prevented
- Won:
  - Caps on weather adjustment charges
  - No penalties for energy conservation
  - Expanded discount and weatherization access
  - First-ever formal community input into PGW's climate planning

## Additional Climate Wins

- 1,000+ homes protected statewide through Whole Home Repair advocacy
- Successful defense of First Amendment rights, securing community participation in public utility decision-making
- Ongoing engagement with the PA Public Utility Commission on electric affordability
- In July, POWER received the "Victory Is Ours" Award from the Bread & Roses Community Fund, recognizing leadership alongside communities on the front lines of the climate crisis.





# Philadelphia: Affordability, Housing, and Worker Power



**5 affordability meetings with 400+ attendees**



**45 leaders testified at City Council, most for the first time**



**Supported organizing during an 8-day DC 33 strike**



**Contributed to the launch of the Philadelphia Cost of Living Task Force**



**Organized opposition to City Council's long-term repeal of the Business Income & Receipts Tax (BIRT)**

**Listening campaigns advanced in Pottstown and Norristown, with parents, clergy, and residents shaping local education and housing demands.**



# Civic Engagement & Democracy

- POWER reached thousands of Pennsylvania voters
- Hundreds of direct conversations held
- In 2024, POWER Democracy Fellows reached nearly 1,000 Black voters who had not been contacted by any other organization
- In 2025, data from Soul Food Dinners was analyzed and the program was relaunched with a sharper focus on engaging the “rightfully cynical”

## In October,

POWER welcomed Dr. Sharon Sobukwe as Director of Research and Policy to deepen research design, voter engagement strategy, and accountability.



# Communications as Movement Infrastructure

Communications functioned as organizing infrastructure, not a standalone output, elevating leaders as trusted messengers across press, testimony, and public actions.



- 300 emails sent
- 10,100 subscribers
- 7.5% list growth in Q1

BIRT was projected to bring in more than \$600 million in tax revenue budget, according to the [city manager's quarterly tax report](#).



40+ earned media hits



14 press events supported in Philadelphia



24+ leaders trained in media and public narrative



# Income and Expense Report

Our income this past year came from a variety of sources, including individual donors, grants, and congregations. Every contribution pushed our organizing forward and helped us “build a bigger we.” This broad base of support, shines a light on our commitment to pouring into our communities, organizing for black, brown and marginalized people, and building leaders.

In 2025, we chose not to chase election-cycle spikes, and continued investing in long-term PEOPLE-DRIVEN organizing power, faith leadership development, and policy campaigns that do not begin and end with federal races.

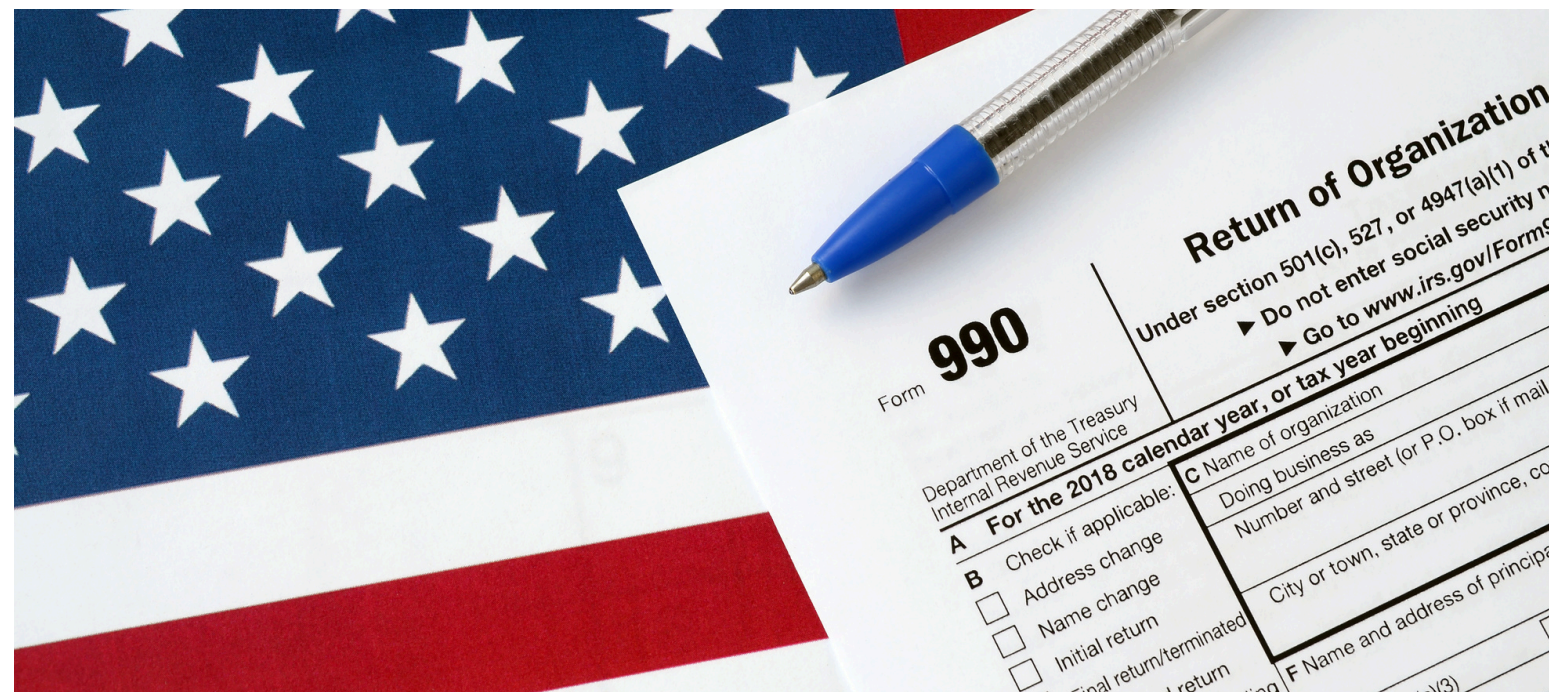
Elected and non-elected leaders need to be accountable to our communities year in and year out, and every year is an election year. We are grateful for the faithful members, funders, and donors who invested a total of \$3 million in 2025 to build faith-grounded organizing power in Pennsylvania, and for those of you who help raise awareness among friends, family, and neighbors across the state, to help us become less reliant on election cycle-driven support.





# Draft 990

This 990 form discloses our financial information from 2025 and details all of our activities, governance and finances from the calendar year. We appreciate our donors, grant makers and community members who have worked alongside us to ensure we continue the work.

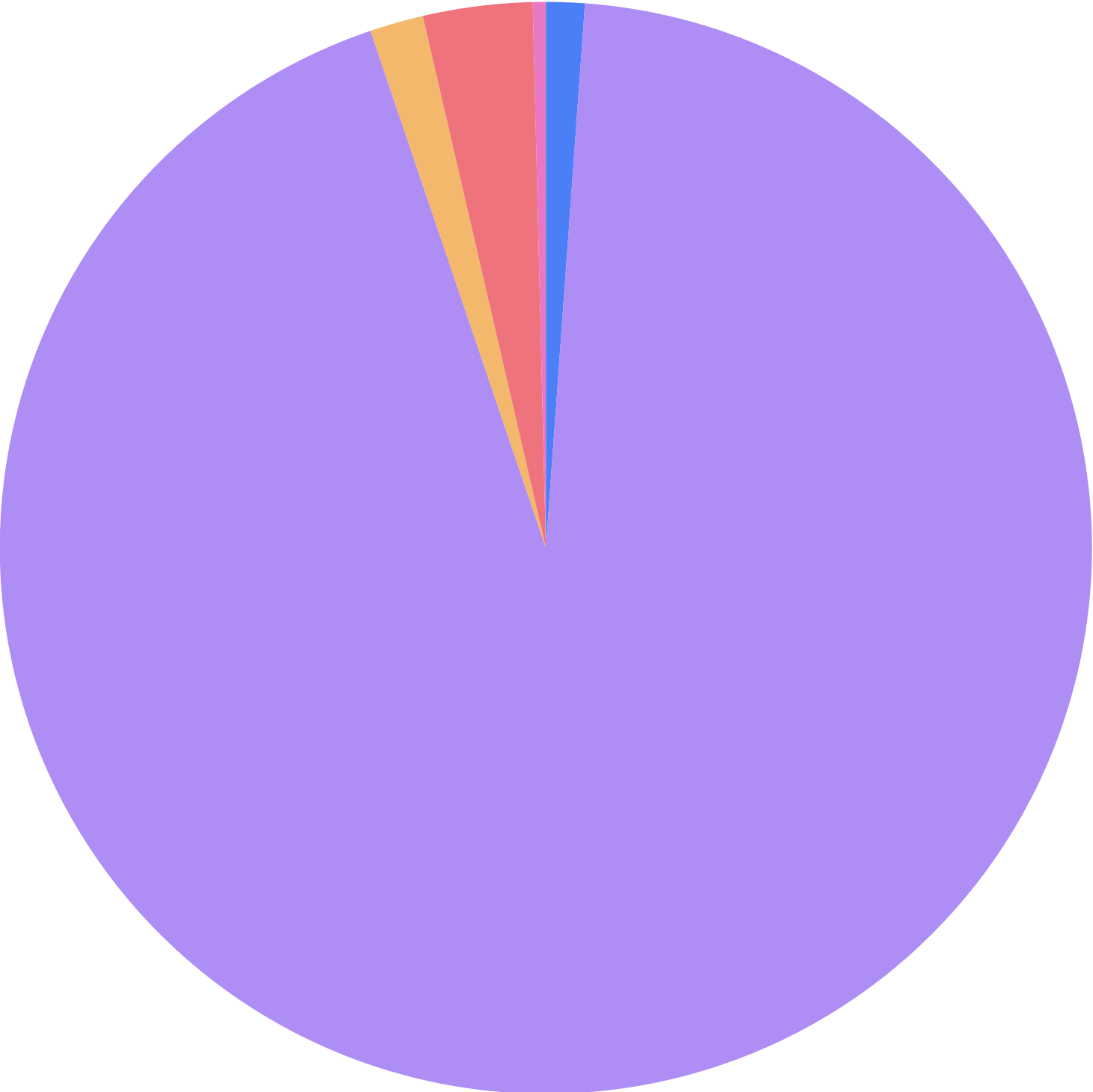


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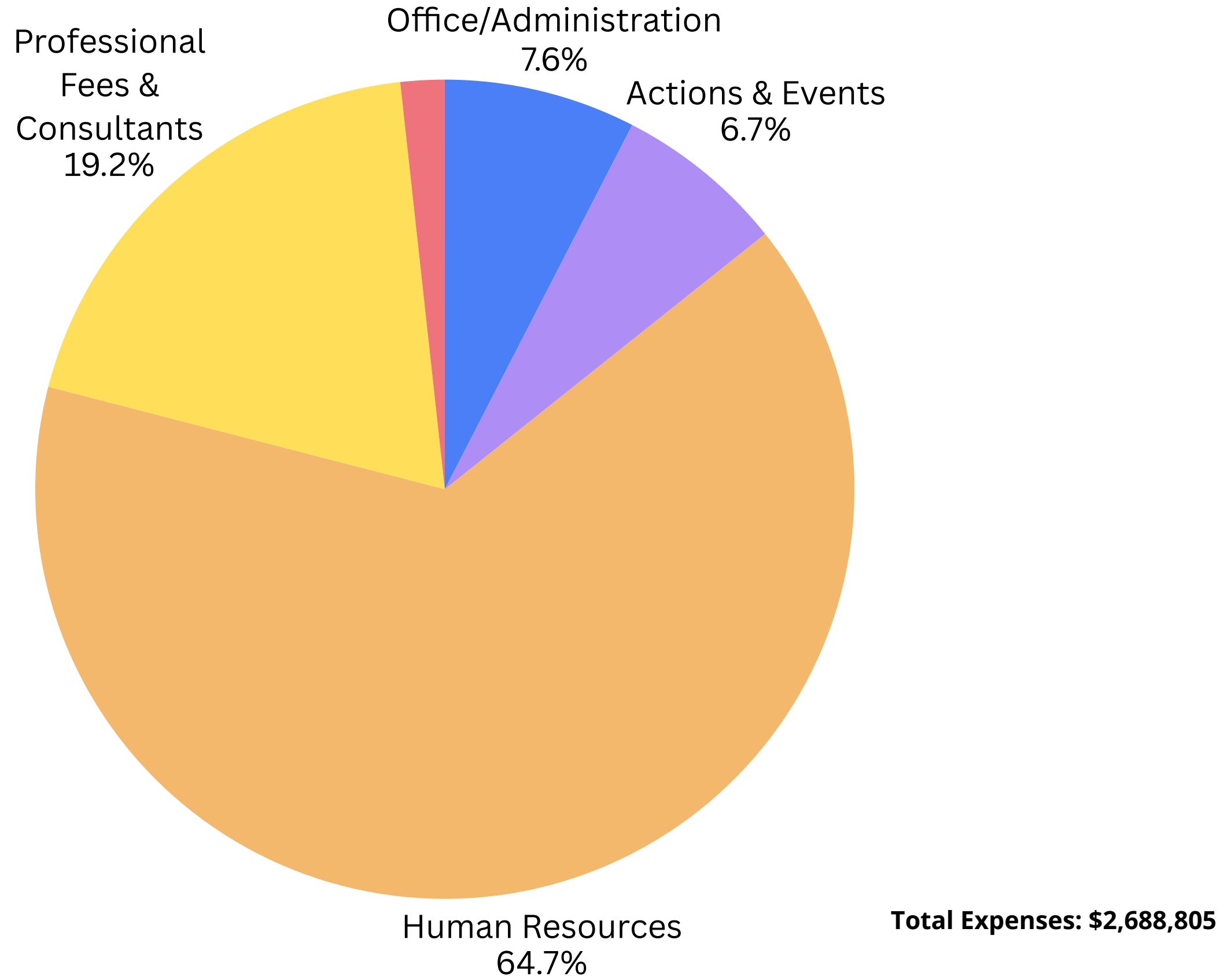
# Revenue



- Grants: 89.3%
- Donor Advised Funds: 1.1%
- Membership: 1.9%
- Donations (including sustainers): 2.2%
- Other (interest, event registrations, etc.): 5.4%

**Total Revenue:\$2,989,173**

# Expenses





# Looking Ahead

## *In 2026, POWER will:*

- Expand organizing in Lancaster, Lehigh Valley, Bucks, Montgomery, Chester, and new regions
- Continue to refine Soul Food Dinners and Black voter engagement
- Deepen climate campaigns targeting PGW and PECO
- Invest in narrative strategy in key legislative districts
- Prepare for heightened attention tied to elections and national events in Philadelphia



**Voter engagement will continue to feed organizing, and organizing will continue to strengthen democracy.**



# Bottom Line

In 2025, POWER Interfaith built infrastructure, developed leaders, and moved money, policy, and public narrative.

Through faith-rooted organizing, disciplined strategy, and collective action, POWER secured tangible wins for families across Pennsylvania while laying the groundwork for long-term power. This is what it looks like to build a bigger “we.”

