

# TRANS LIFELINE

Radical Peer Support for the Trans Community

*2025 Annual Report*

# 2025 Annual Report

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# A Message from our Microgrants Team

Dear Trans Lifeline Community,

We are so grateful for you. This community continues to show up every day, despite ongoing violence against trans bodies and attacks on our humanity by a ruling class that is hell-bent on making life miserable for anyone deemed outside the status quo. This year, we have seen our community at the frontlines of mutual aid efforts, peer support, and advocacy that combats intersecting violences from transphobia to xenophobia. In 2025, we showed that no matter the challenges, we will continue to exist in power and shared purpose. At Trans Lifeline, we continue to be inspired by the care and support trans people demonstrate on a daily basis.

We also heard you. For two years our community has consistently asked us: ***“When is the Microgrants Program coming back?”*** For those of you who don't know, in 2023 Trans Lifeline and TLGBQ+ organizations across the country experienced significant financial downturns as corporate funders pulled out from giving to many of our causes. As a result, we had to make the difficult decision to pause our Microgrants Program. However, we never stopped working to bring Microgrants back. In early 2025, our brilliant fundraising team and Executive Director secured the funding needed to relaunch the program in a sustainable way.

As we continue into 2026, we hope that you will continue to find ways to keep your hope alive, to support your people, and to resist oppression at every turn. We hope that our community can continue to find strength and safety in each other as our pathway to a better world.

To those who have made our work possible, thank you. We ask for your ongoing support so that we may continue our good work.

With love and respect,  
The Trans Lifeline Microgrants Team



# Overview



*Trans Lifeline connects trans people to the community support and resources we need to survive and thrive.*

## Who We Are

Trans Lifeline is a 501(c)(3) grassroots hotline, advocacy, and microgrants organization offering direct peer-based support to trans people in crisis—for the trans community, by the trans community. We are proud to be the largest trans-led direct service provider to trans people in North America.

## Why We Exist

At Trans Lifeline, we believe that every trans person deserves the community support and resources they need not just to survive, but to thrive. Research consistently shows that systemic marginalization and pervasive stigma create significant barriers to essential resources like safe housing, meaningful employment, and affirming healthcare. These inequities don't just make life more difficult—they push many in our community into crisis situations.

Trans people are disproportionately impacted by workplace discrimination, economic instability, and medical bias, making access to basic survival needs a constant struggle. This lack of institutional support and affirming environments contributes to alarmingly high rates of suicidal ideation—not due to personal failure, but because of oppression and structural gaps that render living conditions for many trans people abysmal. When society withholds the connection, economic security, and care that every person deserves, trans individuals are left to navigate immense challenges alone.

Trans Lifeline exists to change that. Led and staffed by fellow trans folks, our mission is to connect our community to the support and resources we need to flourish. Our work is grounded in the belief that trans people deserve a world where we can access safety and care with dignity—without fear of police or prisons.



# Our Principles

Our principles guide every aspect of our work, ensuring that our programs, services, and advocacy efforts align with our mission to support, uplift, and empower trans communities. Read more about them [here](#).





# *How We Make An Impact*

**Our Hotline**—available in English and Spanish—is the *largest peer support and crisis service staffed entirely by trans operators*. Beyond immediate emotional support, we provide a family and friends callback service to help loved ones show up for trans people in their lives. With an unwavering commitment to safety and autonomy, we never call emergency services without the caller’s consent.

**Our Advocacy program** is dedicated to raising awareness of the urgent issues affecting our community and pushing for solutions rooted in care, dignity, and self-determination because we recognize that systemic change is necessary to ensure trans people can not only survive but thrive.

**Our Microgrants program** directly invests in trans lives through partnering with community-based organizations, allowing us to distribute funds in ways that are relational, trauma-informed, and responsive to local needs. These microgrants address immediate stressors such as housing insecurity, medical costs, and basic needs, all of which are critical protective factors for mental health and crisis prevention. By offering direct financial assistance, we help trans people overcome barriers that restrict their ability to live freely and as their authentic selves.

# The Hotline

For more than a decade, Trans Lifeline's Hotline has been a lifeline in the truest sense for trans people across the U.S. and Canada. As the first and only crisis line run by and for trans people, **our peer support model is rooted in shared lived experience and a firm commitment to never involve emergency services without explicit consent.** Our callers reach out knowing they will be met with care, not control.

In 2025, **we answered 10,012 calls from 5,588 people.** Our answer rate more than doubled from last year. That increase represents thousands more trans people who reached out and were met by someone from their own community. It reflects an investment in collective care and in the belief that we keep each other safe.



# This progress was made possible by intentional, *community-driven growth.*

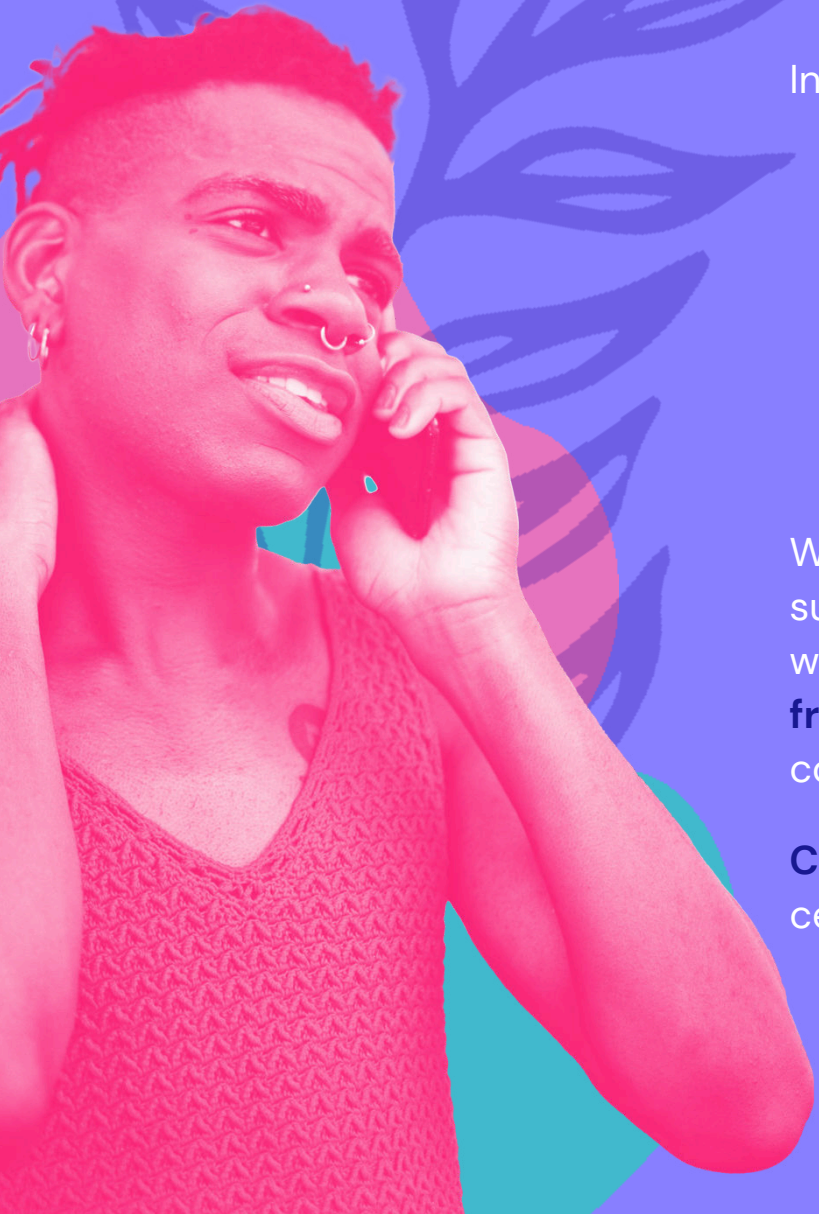
In 2025, we showed up more than ever before! We:

- **Hired 6 additional hotline operators**
- **Increased wages** to ensure hotline roles are paid at a livable rate
- **Strengthened staffing and operational systems** to meet rising demand

We believe the people holding crisis calls deserve dignity, sustainability, and compensation that reflects the weight of their work. In 2026, **we will continue closing the wage gap between frontline staff and leadership** as part of our ongoing commitment to internal equity.

**Community care is not abstract.** It is answered calls. It is centering autonomy and consent.

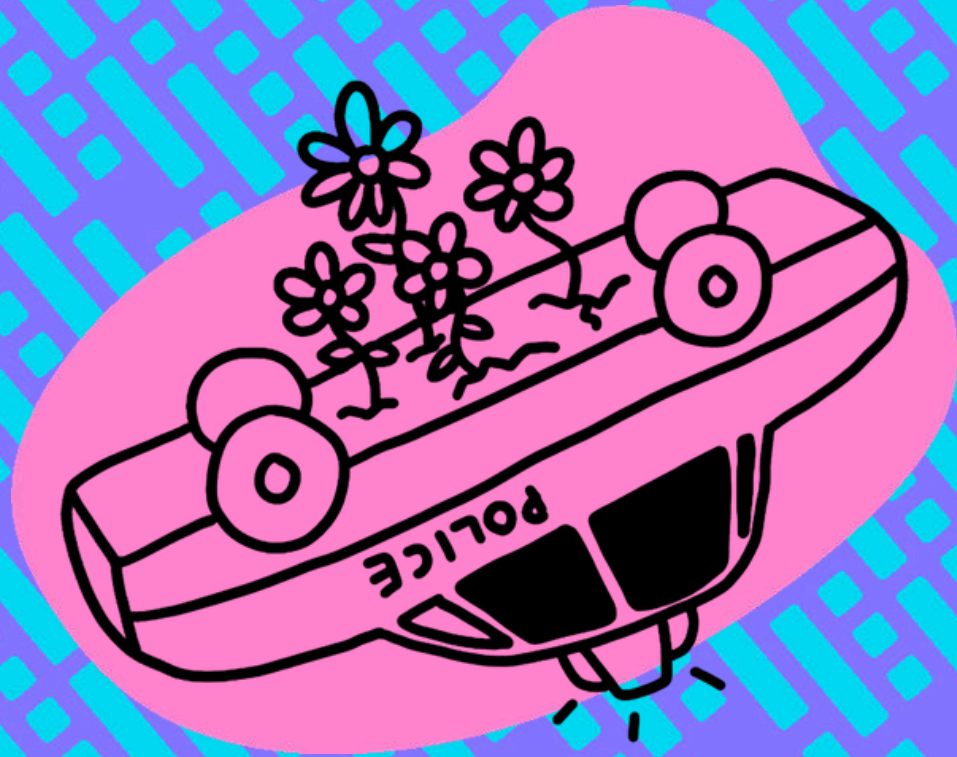
*It is showing up for each other, again and again.*



# Advocacy

## Championing Consent, Dignity, and Systemic Change

Our Advocacy program focuses on systemic change and support for trans individuals beyond immediate crisis intervention. While Trans Lifeline is best known for its peer-support crisis Hotline, the Advocacy department works on broader structural issues affecting the trans community that lead to the need for these services in the first place.



# Microgrants Program Relaunch

Through the persistent focus of our staff and leadership team, and the incredible generosity of our community, Trans Lifeline has been able to relaunch our Microgrants Program. In October 2025 **we moved \$100,000 directly into the hands of Trans people across the nation** and we did it in partnership with local organizations that support trans people directly every day.

This year, by working closely with locally based trans organizations, we ensured that funds went directly to people in the trans community while strengthening our collective resistance and power through partnership.

As we relaunched, we were deliberate about how we wanted to redistribute our funds to the community. **We are so grateful to have had the opportunity to partner with these 5 incredible Trans-led organizations** that provide direct services to trans and non-binary people across the US:

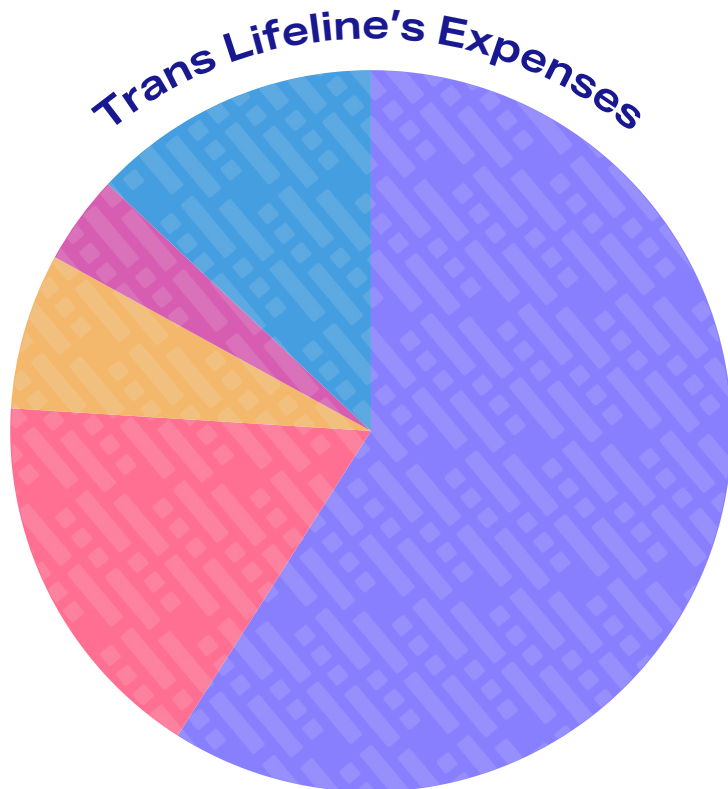
- [Colectivo Intercultural TRANSgrediendo](#)
- [Lavender Rights Project](#)
- [Trans Housing Coalition](#)
- [Trans Income Project](#)
- [Trans Queer Pueblo](#)

Now, more than ever, trans people need material support. Trans people are twice as likely to be living in poverty compared to cisgender people, and are disproportionately unsheltered. To learn more about our Microgrants program relaunch, [read our blog](#).



# 2025 Finances

2025 was a transformative year for Trans Lifeline. In the midst of unprecedented challenges for our community, we have strengthened our financial foundation – giving us the stability to act boldly, plan strategically, and expand our impact. As resources continue to shrink nationwide, this grounding allows us to remain rooted, ready, and resilient for the work ahead. Through a mix of individual donations, grants, and corporate contributions, we generated \$9.23 million in revenue. **By keeping expenses at \$4.8 million, we took significant steps toward a more sustainable and resilient future while remaining mission-driven in our spending.**



Total Revenue: \$9,230,504.50\*

Total Expenses: \$4,828,790.15\*



*\*Pending 2025 audit. Every year Trans Lifeline conducts a thorough audit with a third party. As a result of any findings, these numbers are subject to change. Our report will be updated once the audit has been completed if changes are necessary.*

# 2025 Finances

## Breakdown of Revenue:

Individual Giving .....	\$5,748,975.02
Corporate Giving.....	\$2,053,464.27
Foundation Giving .....	\$582,161.35
Other (Stocks, Investments, Misc Income) .....	\$845,903.90

## Breakdown of Expenses:

### Hotline Services (59%)

The majority of our budget was dedicated to our peer-support hotline, which remains a vital resource for trans people across the U.S. and Canada. This investment covered an increase in hotline operator wages as well as the hiring and training of six new operators. This allowed us to meet the moment, grow our capacity, and demonstrate our commitment to equity and livable wages for our fully trans operated hotline.

### Fundraising (17%)

Our fundraising team focused on strengthening our voice and ability to be a resource to our community, engaging individual donors through creative campaigns, stream-a-thons, and community partnerships. These efforts not only raised essential funds but also fostered deeper connections with our supporters.

### Microgrants & Advocacy (13%)

Thanks to individual donor support, we were able to bring back our microgrants program in 2025. These funds covered not only the microgrants themselves but the staff and resources it took to build a solid foundation and deep relationships with community partners and trans led organizations throughout the US.

### Management & Administration (7%)

These foundational costs range from IT and technology support to general administrative costs and are crucial for long-term stability and efficiency.

### Operations & Support (4%)

This category includes essential program and volunteer expenses, ensuring our programs ran smoothly and effectively.



# Giving Flowers

## To our Donors, Sponsors, and Partners

2025 was one of the most politically challenging years Trans Lifeline has faced. As anti-trans legislation, public rhetoric, and the systematic removal of resources intensified across the country, trans people experienced heightened fear, isolation, and emotional distress. It was a heavy year for our organization, but it was also a year of growth, adaptation, and renewed commitment to building community-based mental health support rooted in dignity, autonomy, and care.

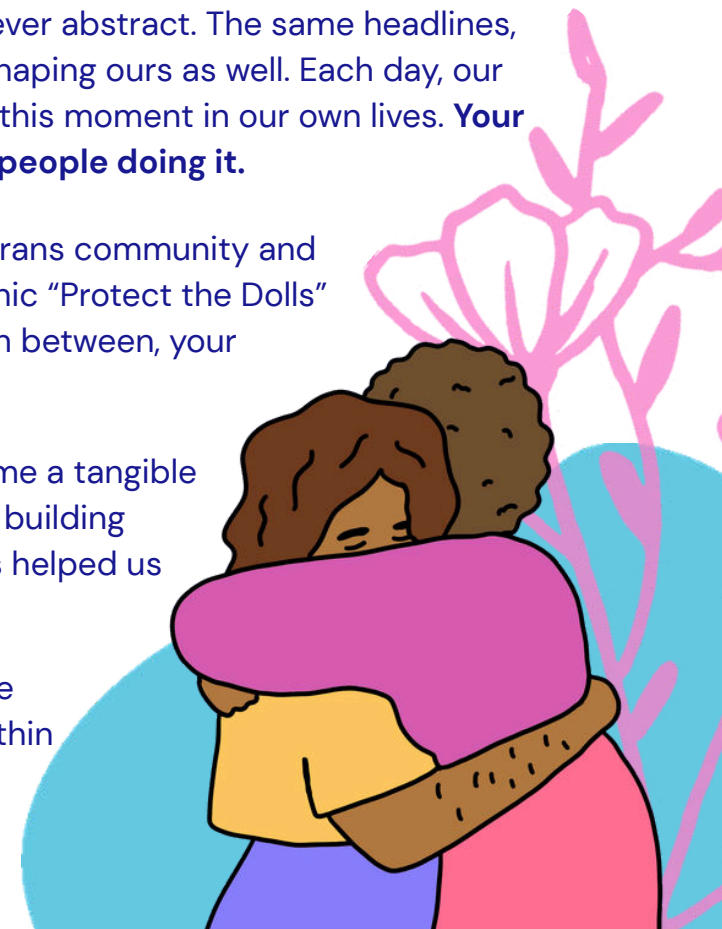
Because Trans Lifeline is run entirely by trans people, these challenges were never abstract. The same headlines, the same policies, the same uncertainty shaping the lives of our callers were shaping ours as well. Each day, our staff showed up to hold space for our community while carrying the weight of this moment in our own lives. **Your support made it possible not only to continue this work, but to sustain the people doing it.**

On the other side of so much grief, there has been your unwavering care. Our trans community and our allies have shown up in extraordinary ways this year. From Conner Ives' iconic "Protect the Dolls" t-shirt to the Rare Impact Fund championing us at every turn, and everything in between, your support has carried us.

Whether you gave \$1 or \$100,000, every single dollar mattered. Each gift became a tangible act of solidarity, a reminder that we are held, that we are seen, and that we are building something enduring together. Even in the hardest seasons, your generosity has helped us keep going, grounded in community and possibility.

This gives us hope. **Hope that this work will continue.** Hope that a world where trans people are supported, loved, and cherished is not just imaginable, but within reach. **The road ahead may be long, but together we know it is possible.**

From all of us at Trans Lifeline, thank you.



# Giving Flowers

## Online Streamathons: Building Community and Raising Funds

The power of peer support is a guiding ethos of Trans Lifeline, and many in our community find connection, care, and belonging online. In 2025, we deepened our relationships with the digital spaces where trans people gather, create, and look out for one another. We are deeply grateful to the communities on Twitch.TV, VRchat, and Magic: The Gathering for the generosity and creativity they bring to supporting our work.

On Twitch.TV, and through our custom-built platform [peer2peer.live](https://peer2peer.live), we organized two Stream-a-Thons this year: an all trans relay celebrating Transgender Day of Visibility, and another during Twitch Together for Good. Across these 24/7 events, more than 60 streamers passed the spotlight from one to the next, creating a full week of live content in support of Trans Lifeline. **Combined with powerful streaming efforts throughout 2025, our community inspired more than 17,500 donations through Tiltify, raising over \$600,000.**

VRchat is a metaverse home for many trans people, and this year we honored that by partnering with a team of trans developers to create an interactive Trans Day of Remembrance world experience. The platform also hosted **its first charity fundraiser benefiting Trans Lifeline, raising \$100,000, while VRCharity raised an additional \$50,000 through a virtual charity event.**

The Magic: The Gathering community once again showed extraordinary generosity through Brian “The Professor” Lewis’s annual Tolarian Community College fundraiser. In 2025, the drive raised an incredible \$614,018. **By inviting supporters to donate prizes that are then shared back with the community, the event creates a joyful cycle of generosity that continues to sustain our grassroots work.**

Whether you raised \$1 or thousands this year, you helped keep this work alive.  
**We are honored to be in community with you.**



In solidarity,  
Steph Loehr (she/her)  
Streaming & Gaming Partnerships



# Giving Flowers

## 2025 Resource Library Hackathon

In November 2025, Trans Lifeline, in partnership with the Gates Foundation, held a successful Resource Library Update Hackathon aimed at improving accessibility to vital resources for trans people in need of support all over the country. Over the course of an afternoon, volunteers and team members came together to update critical data for our [resource library](#). **The event focused on ensuring that trans individuals in all regions had up-to-date information about resources available near them.**

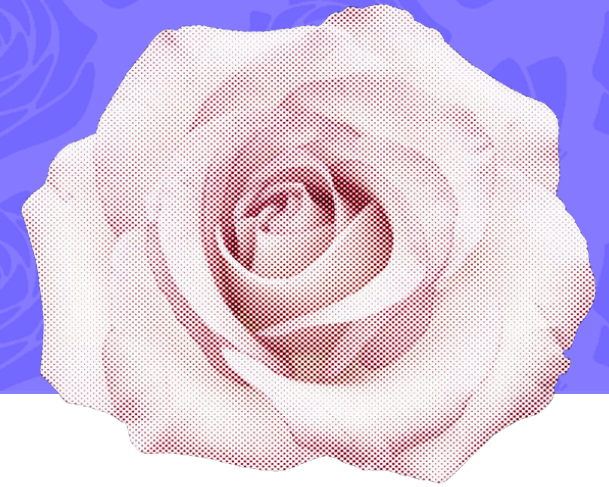
**By the end of the hackathon, we had completed updates for a total of 904 organizations.** This work is an important step toward increasing the accessibility of information for trans individuals across the country, empowering them to navigate the often complex and daunting process of getting support. The hackathon was a significant success, strengthening our partnership with the Gates Foundation and demonstrating the power of collective action in addressing the needs of our community.

### To our volunteers

**Our incredible volunteers are the heart of Trans Lifeline.** This year, their dedication and countless hours of service have made a profound impact on the trans community. From answering hotline calls to providing peer support and assistance, our volunteers embody the thoughtfulness, nurturance, and resilience that has allowed the trans movement to endure for decades. We are endlessly grateful for their time, energy, and passion in advancing our mission.



# Where We Are Headed



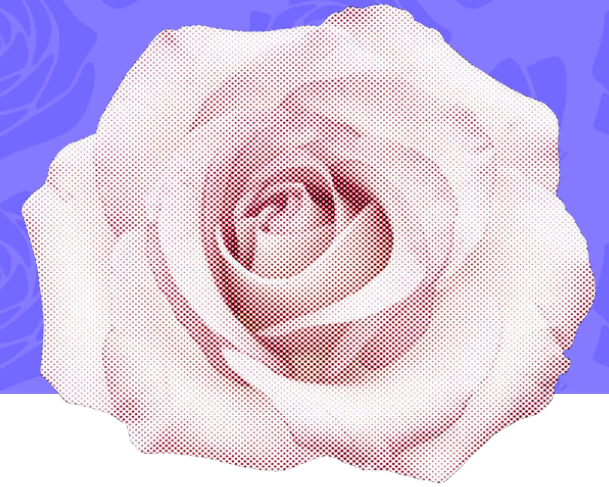
**We are moving forward with *intention, care, and a deep commitment* to our people.**

In the year ahead, we are expanding our hotline capacity, not only by answering more calls, but by strengthening our ability to truly be with each caller. **We are investing in trauma stewardship for our operators** – creating space to process grief, sustain one another, and return each day grounded and present. **Care for our community begins with care for the people who hold it.**

At a time when many organizations are scaling back, we are choosing to invest more deeply. We are building a model rooted in equity and sustainability, including increasing wages for frontline staff and closing gaps across our organization. **We believe that resourcing our people is not optional, it is essential.** By sharing these practices, we hope to offer a blueprint for what people-centered, values-driven work can look like.

Looking ahead to 2026 and 2027, **we are growing our role as a resource for all organizations by offering training, consultation, and technical assistance grounded in lived trans experience.** This is knowledge shaped by community, history, and care. We will keep building environments where trans people are not only included, but protected, respected, and able to thrive.

# Where We Are Headed



We are also deepening our commitment to **direct support by distributing \$150,000 in microgrants this year, prioritizing Black, Brown and Indigenous trans communities, especially in the South and rural areas**, and strengthening relationships with trans-led organizations across the country.

Our hotline remains at the center of everything we do. We'll be sharing more of our internal world and organizational updates throughout the year, and inviting our community to understand what is at stake and what is possible. **Trans people deserve to live, and to live freely and authentically;** resourcing this work is one tangible way to make that real.

As we grow, we are thoughtfully shaping our leadership structure with input from every staff member, building toward long-term stability, shared accountability, and collective care.

**We believe in a future shaped by *trans brilliance, safety, and joy.***

**And we are building it, together.**

# How To Support Our Work

## Make a Direct Donation



**One of the most impactful ways to support Trans Lifeline is by making a direct donation.** Your contribution helps fund life-saving services like the peer support Hotline and Microgrants programs, which provide critical resources to trans individuals. Whether it's a one-time gift or a recurring donation, every dollar goes directly toward supporting trans-led initiatives that uplift and empower the community. [You can donate online](#), or if you prefer donating non-cash, stock, or other complex gift, you can email us at [donations@translifeline.org](mailto:donations@translifeline.org).

## Host a Fundraiser



**You can amplify your support for Trans Lifeline by organizing your fundraiser.** Whether it's through a virtual event, a birthday fundraiser on Facebook or Instagram, or a community gathering, fundraising allows you to engage your network in supporting trans individuals. By sharing Trans Lifeline's mission and encouraging others to contribute, you're expanding the impact and ensuring more resources reach those who need them most.

## Spread Awareness and Advocate



Supporting Trans Lifeline isn't limited to financial contributions. **You can play a vital role by spreading awareness about the organization's work and advocating for trans rights.** Share Trans Lifeline's mission, resources, and stories on social media, or talk about them within your personal networks. Your voice helps elevate the visibility of trans issues and encourages others to take action, creating a ripple effect of support.

# How to Support Our Community



## Give to Mutual Aid



Supporting trans people can start with direct contributions to mutual aid networks. Mutual aid provides immediate, tangible support to individuals in the community, whether through financial assistance, housing help, or other necessities. By giving to these efforts, you're ensuring that resources go directly to trans individuals who need them most, helping them navigate challenges with dignity and care. [Check out these other trans-led organizations doing this incredible work here.](#)

## Support Grassroots Efforts and Organizations



Grassroots efforts and organizations play a vital role in uplifting and empowering trans communities. These groups often work on the ground, addressing issues like healthcare access, housing insecurity, and advocacy for trans rights. Supporting these initiatives through donations, volunteering, or amplifying their work helps create sustainable change and reinforces the collective power of trans-led movements. [You can check out a few of these groups working in different communities around the country here.](#)

# A Message to our Cis Allies



**Being an ally is more than just a label; it's a continuous state of learning, unlearning, and relearning.** The political climate continues to tell false and dangerous narratives about trans people and pass policies that, to be honest, aren't only unjust but plain scary. The uncertainty and sometimes hopelessness we feel today can be debilitating. But this is where we need you, your support, and your advocacy. Here are some steps that you can take today to elevate your allyship:

## Continue to educate yourself and other cisgender people

You don't have to be an expert on all things trans in order to have conversations about trans wins, trans issues, and trans experiences. **The more you know and the more you stay curious, the more you will feel empowered to talk about, educate, and advocate for us.** And if you need another resource, we have ["Hey! I'm Trans!"](#) It has tons of articles on trans terminology, ways to create inclusive workplaces, a crash course on pronouns, and more.

## Speak up and speak out!

If you hear negative remarks about the trans community, have a conversation with them. If you notice someone using the wrong name or pronouns, gently correct them. If it persists, call them in. Standing up for trans people, whether they are in the room with you or not, is an easy way to be in solidarity and model a support system that we need.

Move from ally to advocate! Since November 2024's election, more than half of trans folks have taken steps to be less visible, and [more than 400,000 trans people have moved states](#). Promote change by calling policymakers, signing petitions, and going to actions to support our quality of life. **Let your actions be your voice!**

## Share about Trans Lifeline's work, resources, and services

Send that text – check up on your trans loved ones, share one of our hotline posts to your stories, or send a message to your neighborhood listserv – **help us get the word out that a peer support hotline run by trans people exists for trans and questioning people to talk to someone trans.** In addition to supporting us directly, spreading the word about our work, resources, and services will make a lasting impact.

Your love and support matter now more than ever before. To be loved by you is such a gift. **Remember: you don't need to be perfect; we just need you to show up authentically for us.** Your allyship gives us radical hope that another world is possible. Thank you for being here with us, we love you, too.



# TRANS LIFELINE

**Hotline Phone Numbers:**

U.S. (877) 565-8860

Canada (877) 330-6366

**Administrative Office:**

(510) 771-1417

**EIN:** 47-2097494

**Mailing Address:**

548 Market St PMB 15337

San Francisco, CA 94104-5401

**Website:** [translifeline.org](http://translifeline.org)

**Facebook:** [@TransLifeline](https://www.facebook.com/TransLifeline)

**Instagram:** [@translifeline](https://www.instagram.com/translifeline)

**BlueSky:** [@TransLifeline.org](https://bsky.app/profile/TransLifeline.org)