



# ACTION WELLNESS

Putting good health into motion

## FY 2024 Annual Report



# Who We Are

In September 1986, a group of committed volunteers came together in Philadelphia to form a community of care to provide services to people with HIV. These were the partners, family, and friends of our founding volunteers. These volunteers acted, and **ActionAIDS was born!**

The Reverend Jim Littrell was the first Executive Director, Bob Schoenberg was the first Board President, and Anna Forbes was the first staff member. The mission statement simply read: "**ActionAIDS believes that no one should face AIDS alone.**"

In its first year of service, ActionAIDS helped over 100 people.



In June 2016, **ActionAIDS became Action Wellness.** Thanks to dedicated volunteers, committed staff, generous donors, and ongoing support from city, state, and federal funders, Action Wellness continues to provide life-sustaining services to persons with HIV or at high risk of acquiring HIV and their families.

Each year, Action Wellness serves **over 2,000 clients** through the efforts of **over 200 dedicated volunteers and over 80 professional staff.** Our services are client-centered, individualized and trauma-informed. Our work continues to build a **strong, committed community** of caring dedicated to positively impacting the physical, emotional and economic wellbeing of the individuals we serve on a daily basis.

# 2023-24 Highlights



Action Wellness at **OURfest 2024**



Action Wellness celebrated our annual **Volunteer/Staff Appreciation Party**



**"Action Heroes Wear Red"**  
Campaign for World AIDS Day



Our Executive Director, Evelyn, received an award at the **Penn CFAR Red Ribbon Awards**



Action Wellness represented at the **2024 Philly AIDS Walk**



# From the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude for the unwavering dedication of our staff, volunteers, donors and funders. You make our work possible. Your time, energy, passion and commitment are the heartbeat of Action Wellness. Whether providing client services, Buddy support, advocating for policies that protect our community, funding essential services or providing volunteer services; your contributions have been invaluable.

In Fiscal Year 2024, we came together for incredible moments of advocacy, celebration, and action. Dining Out For Life 2024 was a powerful reminder of the strength of our community, as we dined in support of ending the HIV Epidemic. In December, our "Action Heroes Wear Red" World AIDS Day Campaign brought awareness and solidarity, reinforcing our commitment to ending the stigma surrounding HIV. We also gathered in unity at the Philly AIDS Walk, walking in remembrance, hope, and determination to create a healthier future for all.

As we move forward, we remain steadfast in our commitment to support individuals living with and at high risk of acquiring HIV by ensuring they receive life-sustaining services and resources. Thank you for being part of this journey with us. Together, we continue to make a lasting impact.

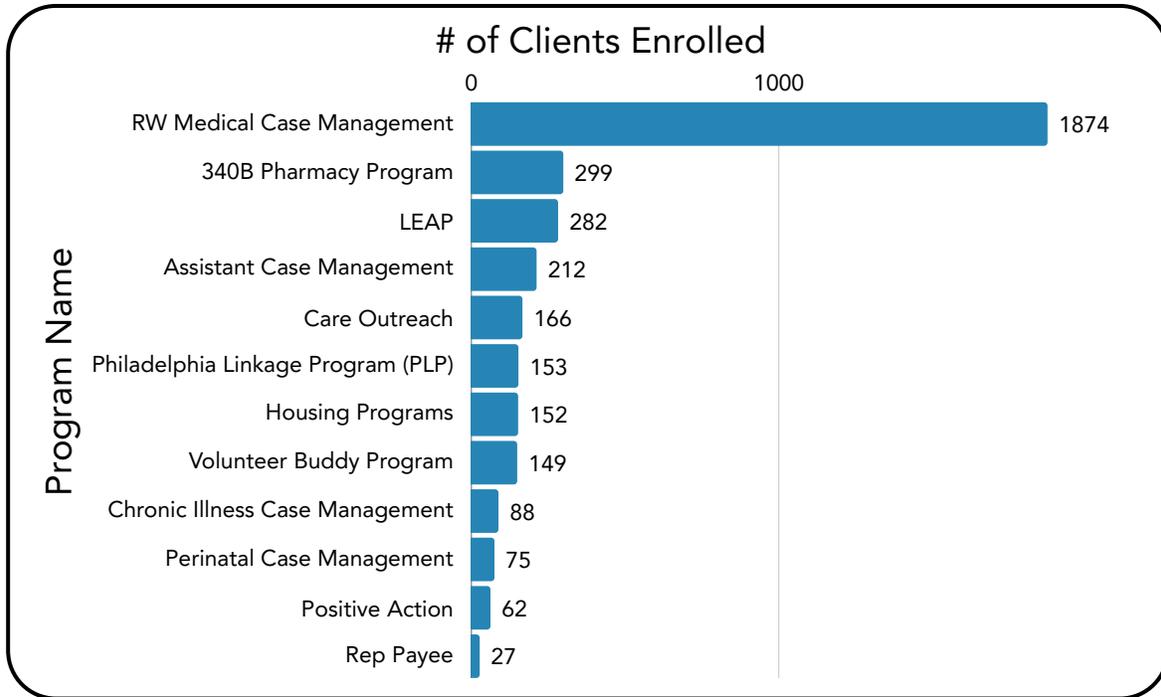
With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Evelyn Torres". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

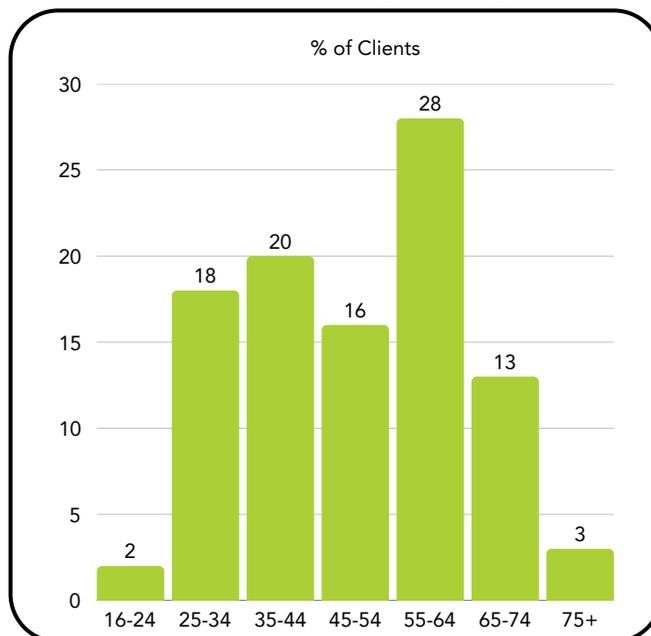


# Client Demographics #1

## Client Program Enrollments



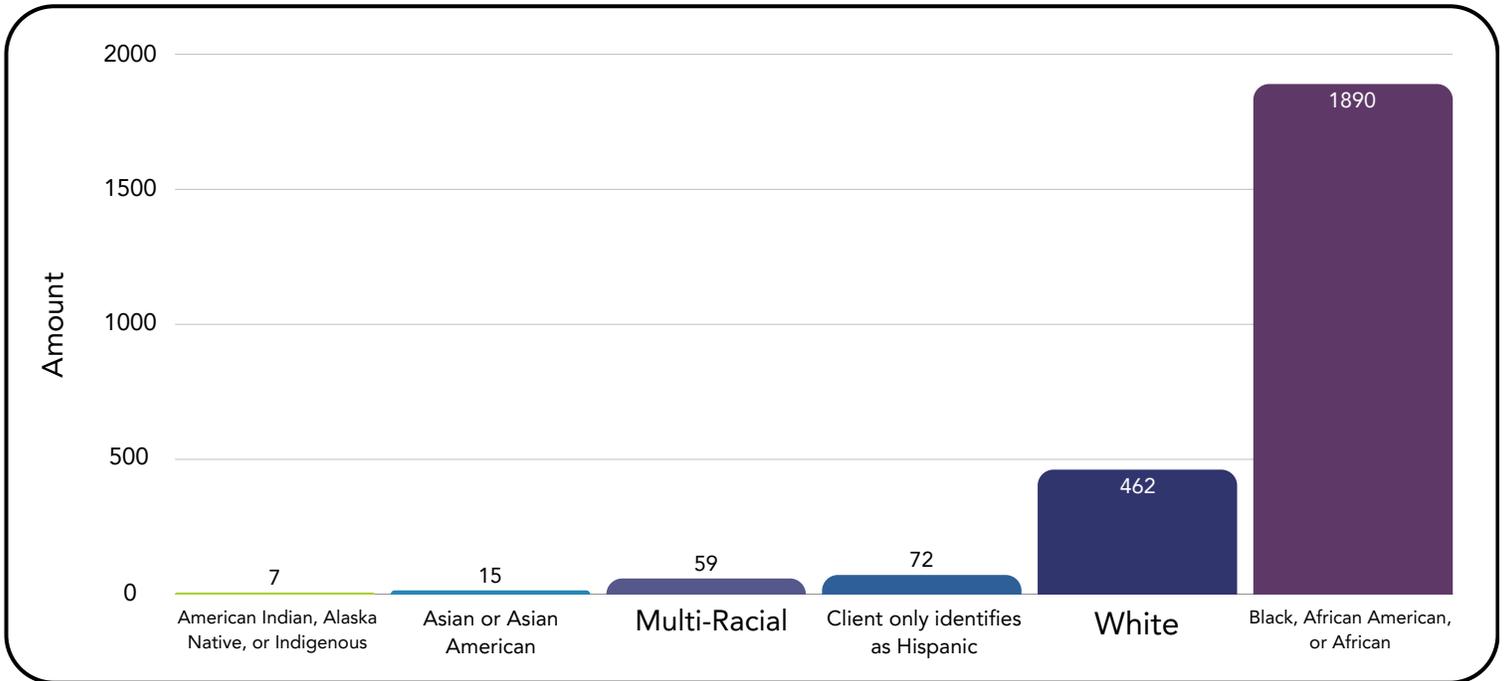
## Clients by Age



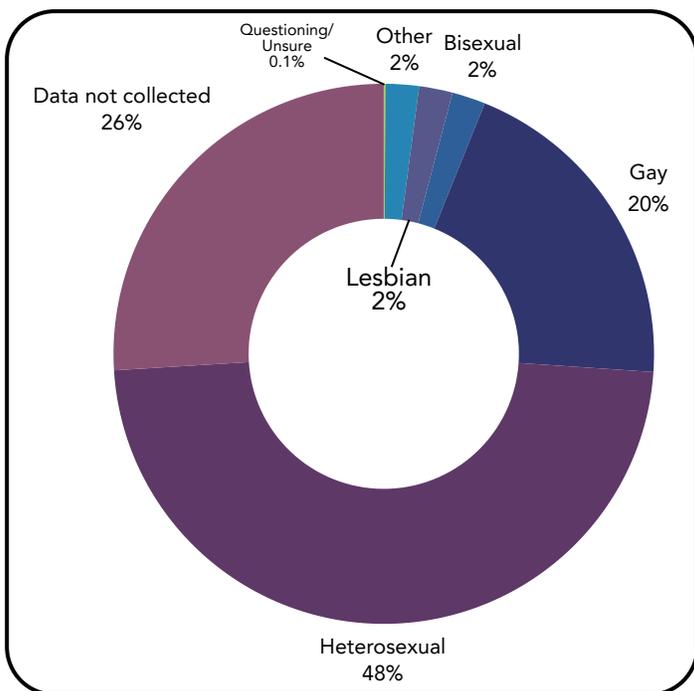


# Client Demographics #2

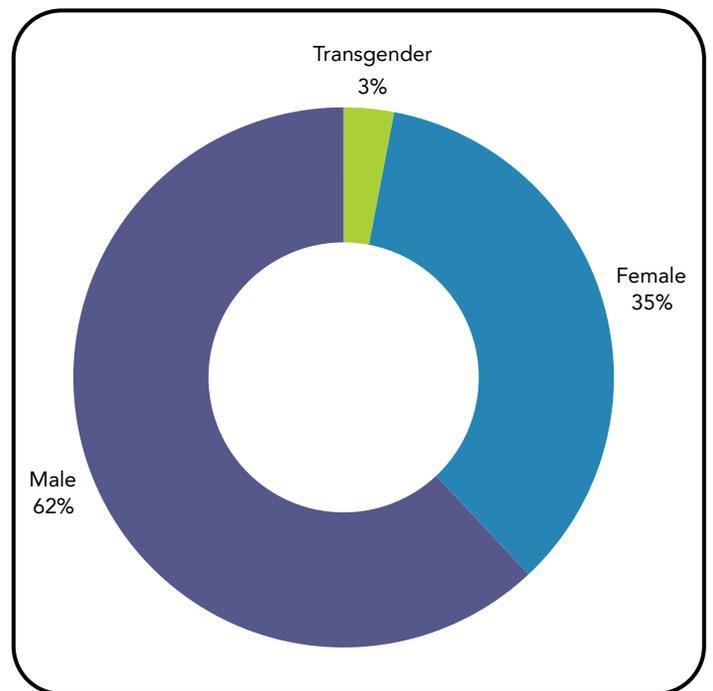
## Clients by Race/Ethnicity



## Clients by Sexual Orientation



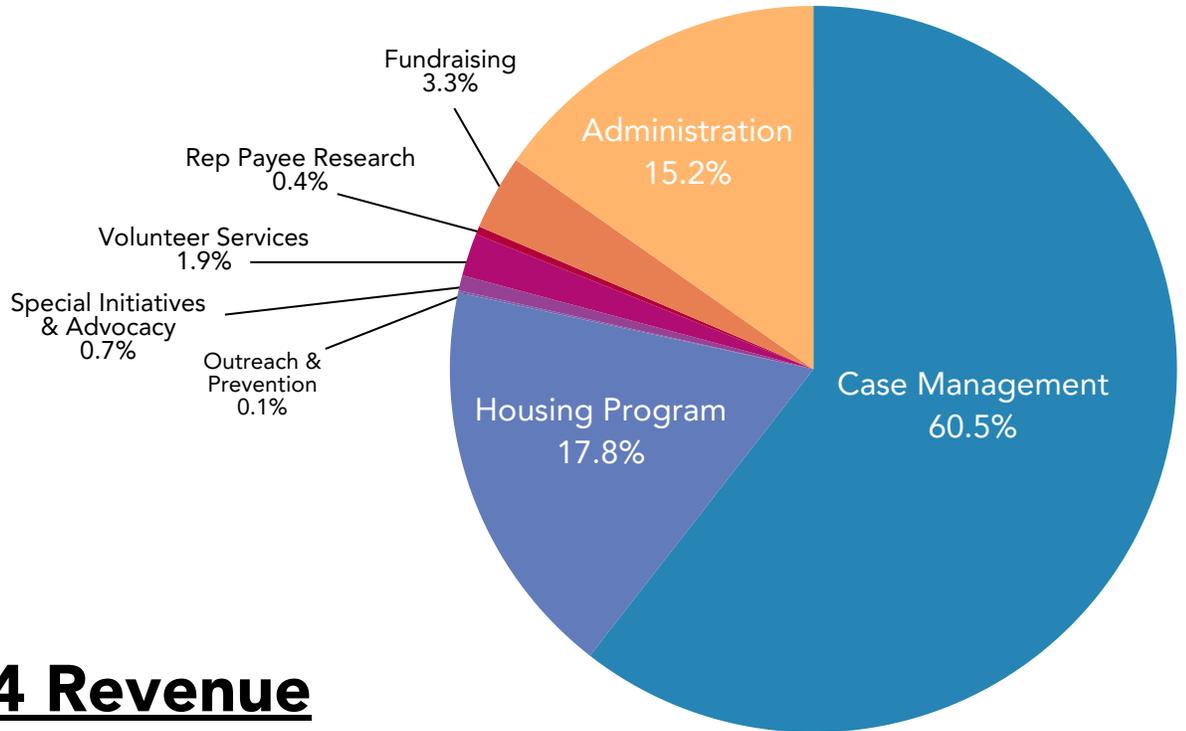
## Clients by Gender



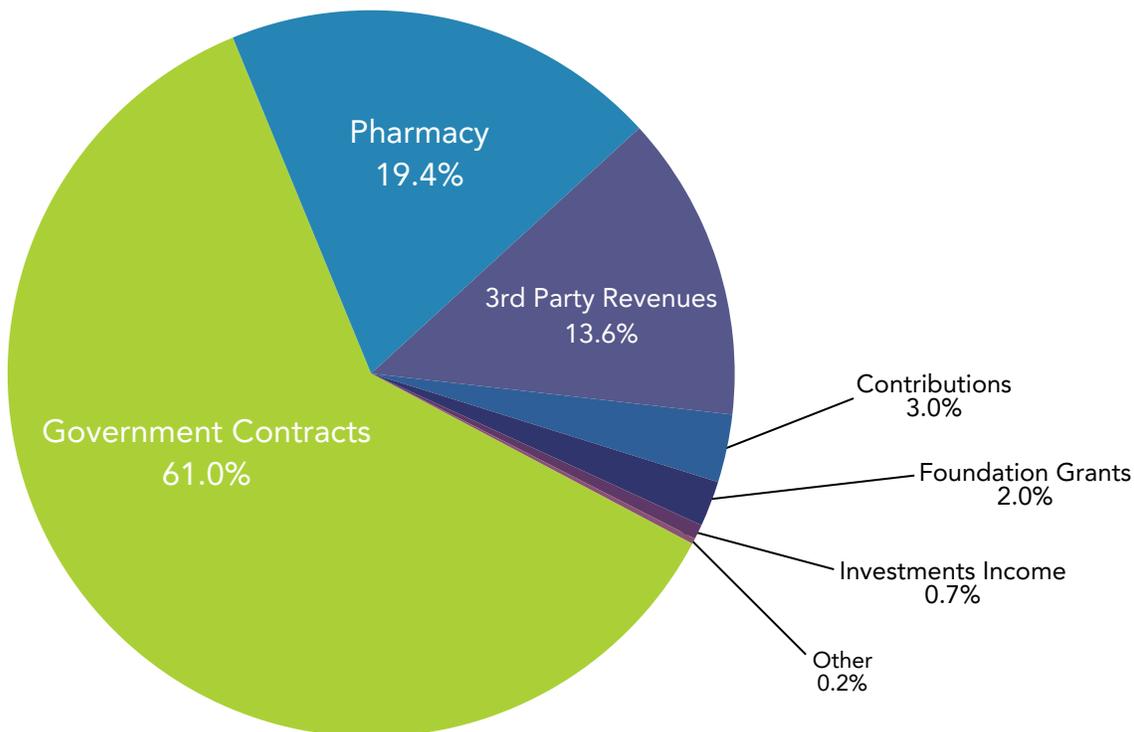


# Financials

## FY24 Expenses



## FY24 Revenue





**Thank you,  
Donors and Volunteers!**





# Services

## Immediate Seating

Immediate Seating is a volunteer-run ticket program. It gives clients the opportunity to enjoy theater, film, dance, concerts, museums, and a myriad of special events at no cost to them.

## Philadelphia Linkage Program

The Philadelphia Linkage Program (PLP) serves people living with HIV while they are incarcerated and continues through their release from the Philadelphia Department of Prisons (PDP). We offer PLP Services such as medical case management, linkage to medical care, medication assistance, and drug & alcohol treatment.

## Housing

Action Wellness' housing programs offer both transitional and permanent housing assistance. Medical Case Managers and Housing Counselors work with program participants to support housing stability, adherence to medical care and improved health outcomes.

## Medical Case Management

The Action Wellness Medical Case Management program serves individuals with HIV or at risk of acquiring HIV and their families at 4 different office locations. Medical Case Managers link clients to life-sustaining medical care and other vital support services.

## LEAP Program

The Linkage and Engagement After Prison (LEAP) Program is a medical case management and outreach initiative for people with a diagnosis of Opioid Use Disorder. LEAP Case Managers provide valuable services to incarcerated and recently released individuals at PDP.

## Perinatal Care

The Perinatal Program provides services to pregnant persons living with HIV or substance use disorder. Staff are trained around the specific needs of pregnancy and are available for any individual regardless of where they receive medical care.

## Buddy Program

The Action Wellness Buddy Program matches volunteers with clients. These Buddies give emotional support, companionship, and occasional assistance with the tasks of daily living. Our program is one of the oldest and largest Buddy programs in the US, with more than 150 dedicated Buddies serving over 100 individuals and their families.

# Action Wellness Executive Leadership & Board of Directors

**Mary Evelyn Torres**  
Executive Director

**Beth Hagan**  
Deputy Executive Director

**Yelena Anatolenko**  
Director of Finance

**Alex Bedenko**  
Controller

**Crystal Garland**  
Director of Human Resources

**Frank Gioffre**  
Director of Information Technology

**Sebastian Branca**  
Director of Performance  
Measurements and Compliance

**Jay Johnson**  
Director of Volunteers

**Adrienne Crain**  
Assistant Director of Client Services

**Dorsche Pinsky**  
Assistant Director of Client Services

**Syreeta Vereen**  
Assistant Director of Client Services

**Tony F. Morelli Jr.**  
Board President  
**Jeff Alexander**  
Board Vice President  
**Frank Pittner**  
Board Treasurer  
**Meg Butler**  
Board Secretary

**Leah Chaplin**  
**Tracy Davis**  
**John H. Dawson, Jr.**  
**Rochelle Laws**  
**Brenard Lundy**  
**Whitney Strickland**