



# **SHELTER ADVISORY BOARD COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT:**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & FUTURE DIRECTIONS**

Samantha Owusu, MSW, LCSW  
Second Bloom of Chatham – Board Chair

Cindy Perry, SBC Shelter Advisory  
Board Chair

## OVERVIEW OF SECOND BLOOM

Established in 2017 following the closure of FVRC.

## MISSION

To identify and raise awareness of the needs of those in Chatham County affected by any form of intimate partner and/or sexual violence.

## MEETING PURPOSE

To present the current status, achievements, and future goals of Second Bloom for providing emergency shelter to survivors in Chatham and secure county support for these strategies.

Began conversations with the County regarding existing funding earmarked (\$450,000) to be used to meet immediate emergency shelter needs. Shelter Advisory Board has met regularly since Jan. 2024

Secured first emergency shelter options.

Conducted survivor focus groups, began site visits, and began a cost comparison analysis of different shelter options.

Began to explore and develop a sustainability plan that includes a capital campaign for long-term success.

Finished all site visits & interviews, providing a report to the Shelter Advisory Board and the County.

August 2024

Sep/Oct. 2024

Fall 2024

Fall 2024

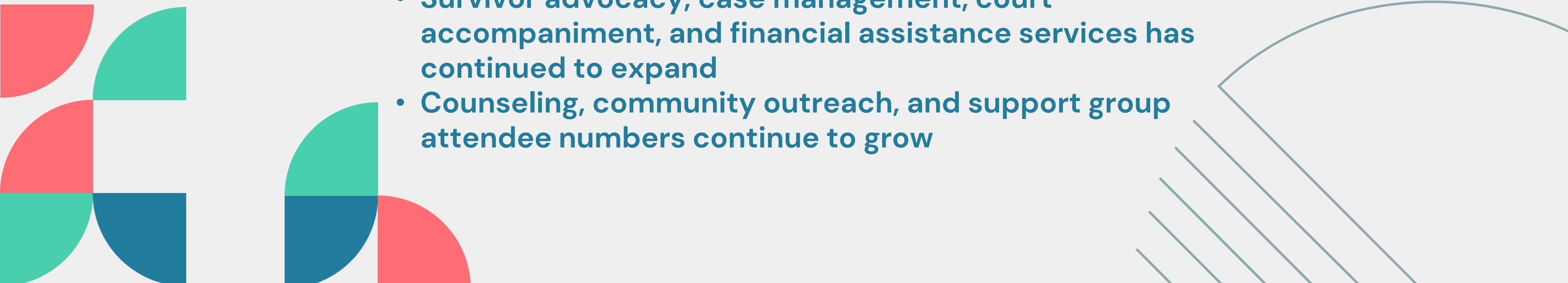
Nov/Dec. 2024

## Goals & Timeline





# **GROWTH & ACHIEVEMENTS (2022-2024)**

- **Staff Expansion – Growth from 1.5 to 9 staff members**
  - **Bilingual Advocates (1.5 FTEs)**
  - **Service Expansion (all programs)**
  - **24/7 HelpLine fully staffed**
  - **Survivor advocacy, case management, court accompaniment, and financial assistance services has continued to expand**
  - **Counseling, community outreach, and support group attendee numbers continue to grow**
- 

# FY 2024 to Date Statistic

S

Total Number of New  
Survivors Served

271

Experienced Domestic/Intimate  
Partner Violence

74%

Experienced Sexual Violence/Assault

26%

Black, Indigenous, and People of  
Color (BIPOC) Survivors

78

Latine/Hispanic Survivors

32

Volunteer Hours Provided

12,635

Outreach Engagements  
*(number of individuals reached)*

23,425

Crisis Calls Received on HelpLine

416



# CURRENT SERVICES PROVIDED

- Bilingual crisis response and advocacy
- Counseling and support groups
- Court advocacy
- Community outreach and education
- Financial assistance
- Emergency shelter
- 12,635 volunteer hours provided in FY 2023-2024




## Client Testimonial:

**"THANK YOU TO ADVOCATES EMMA, PHYLLIS, AND RODOLFO, FOR THE ENORMOUS SUPPORT GIVEN TO MY CHILDREN AND I. COMING TO SECOND BLOOM FEELS LIKE A BREATH OF FRESH AIR."**



## Client Testimonial:

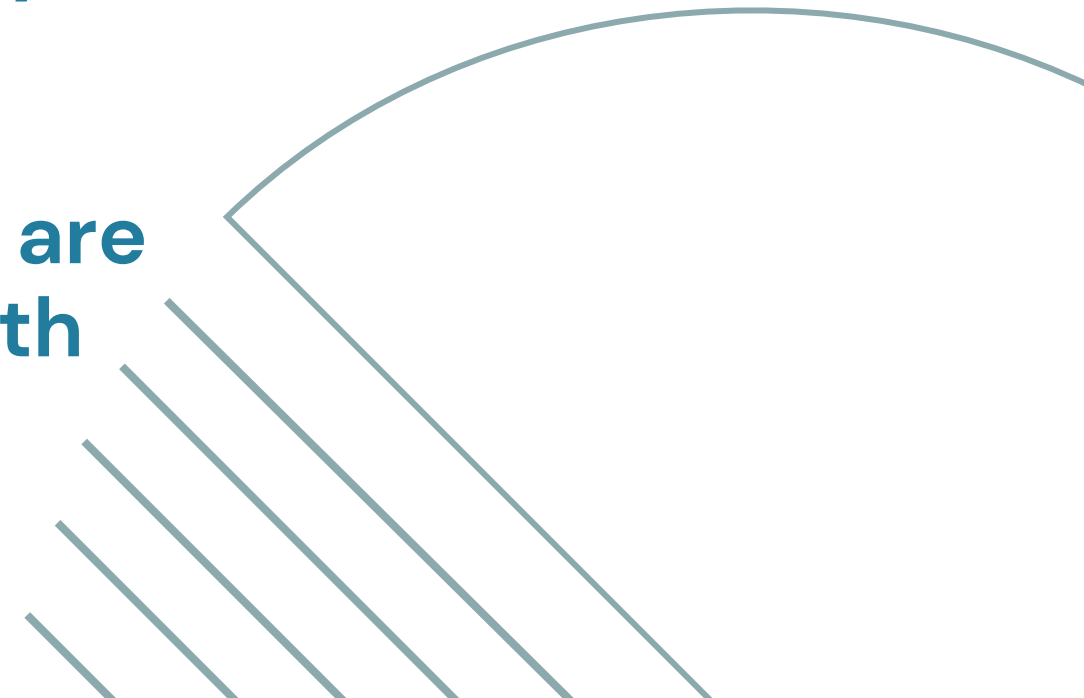
**"I AM SO GRATEFUL FOR THIS SAFE PLACE TO GROW AND HEAL WHILE I NAVIGATE MY WAY OUT OF THIS ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP."**





# NEED FOR EMERGENCY SHELTER

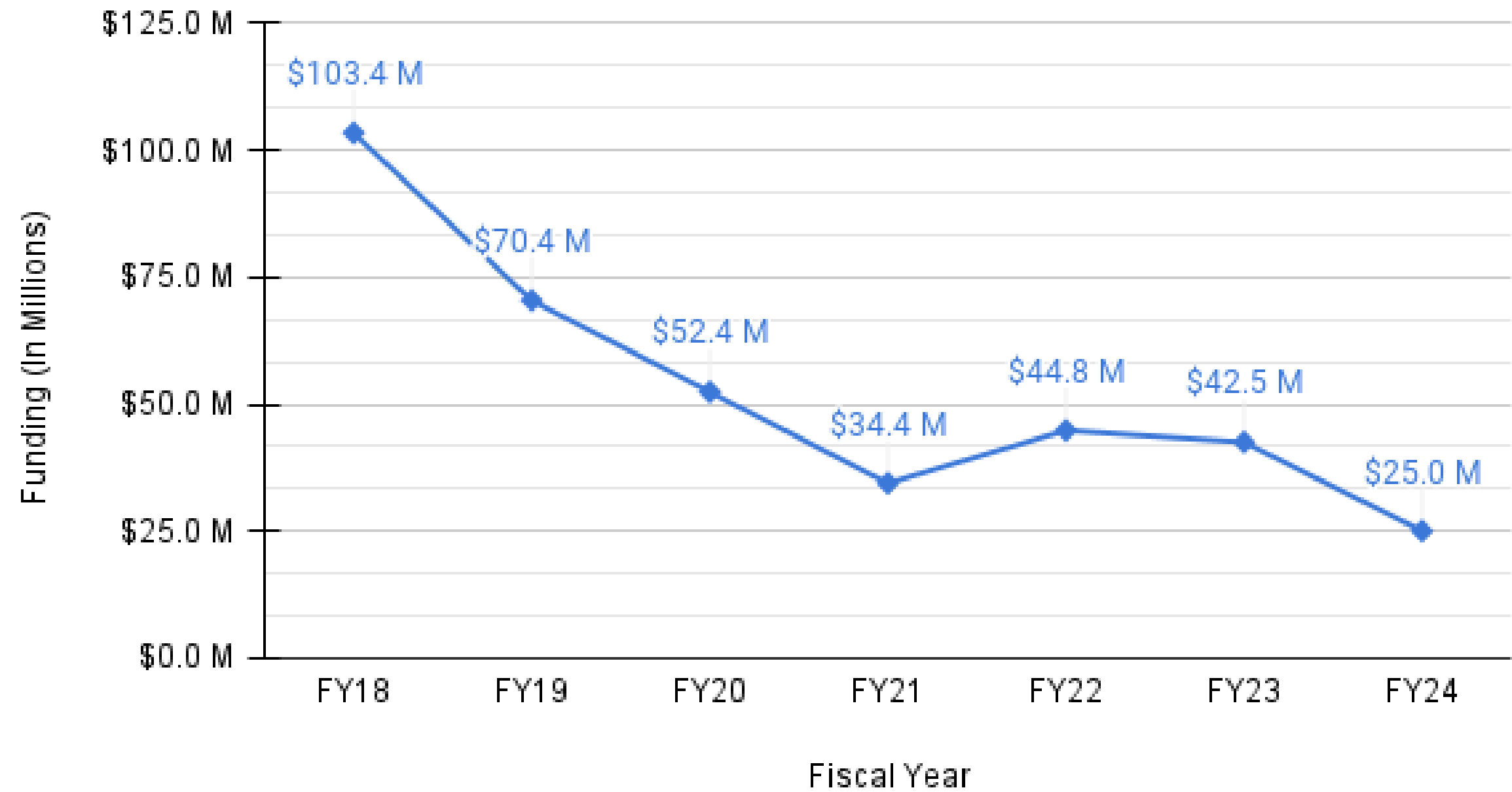
- Reliance on motel/hotel rooms is unsustainable and expensive (See Appendix B of report)
- Chatham has a high need for stable and suitable emergency housing options: 47% of renters here have difficulty affording their home
- SBC consultants and staff are researching best practices for sheltering and housing survivors, with input from survivors, advocates, and community stakeholders
- Flexible emergency housing options are critical as the area expands its growth



# FUNDING CRISIS



## VOCA Funding in North Carolina



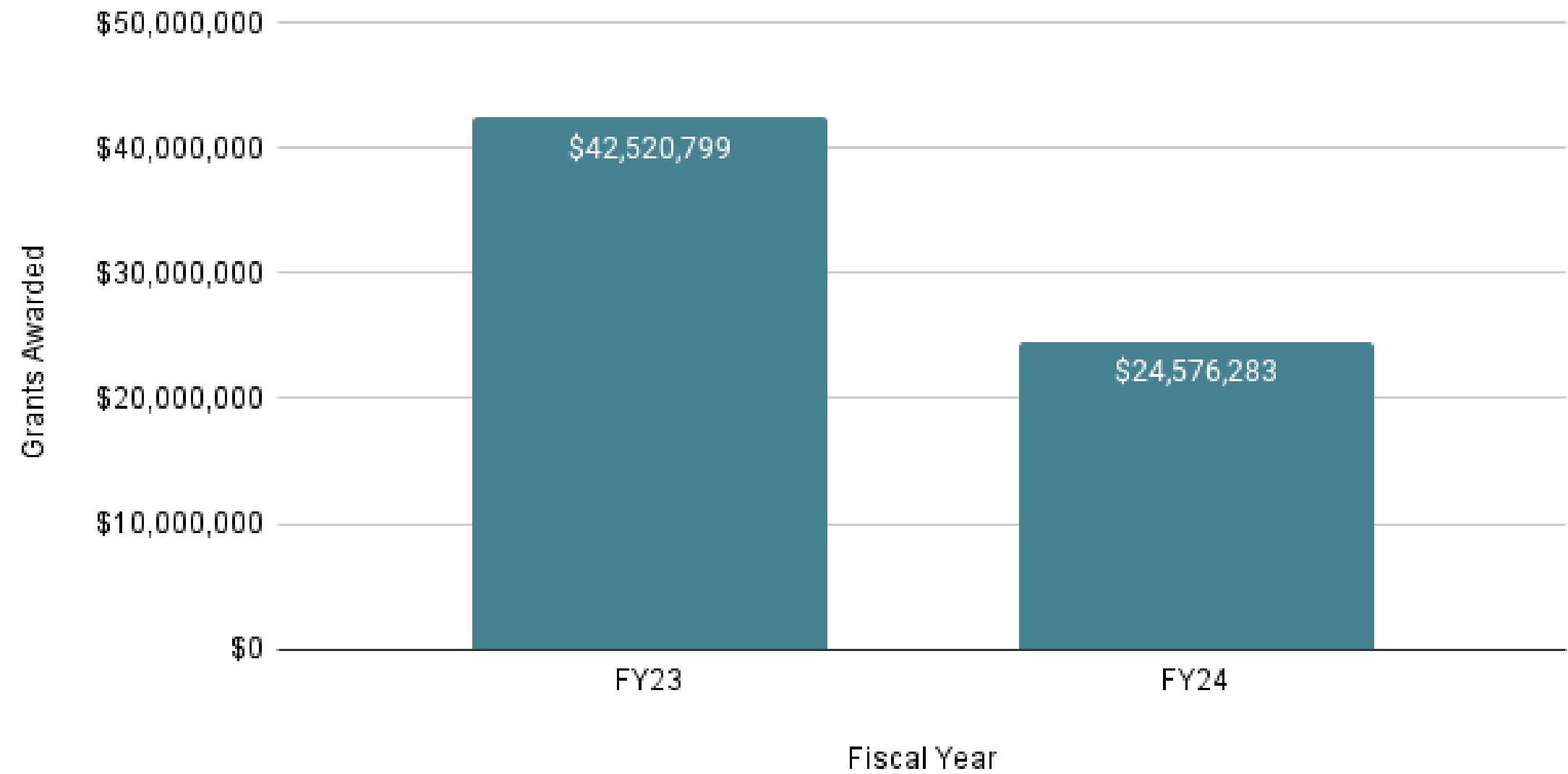
**Projected for FY25: \$3.5M – \$16.5M**



# FUNDING CRISIS



## Victims of Crime Act, Victim Assistance Grants Awarded in North Carolina



**\$17,944,516 or 42% Cut**

# PROPOSED HOUSING SOLUTIONS

- **Short-Term Solutions:**

- Secure diverse rental options: SBC currently has two emergency housing sites with a total of 5 bedrooms available
- Semi-permanent options are being explored further with new transitional housing grant
- New funding secured and additional grants applied for (\$1.5M total requested in potential support, \$550K has been secured for transitional housing)

- **Longer-Term Solutions:**

- Multiple, diverse units and potential capital campaign for new shelter facility
- Partnership with developers for building and land donations or renovations
- Corporate partnership development



# FUNDING EXPECTED

\$25K

INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

Raised towards opening and renovating an emergency shelter

\$450K

COUNTY EARMARK SUPPORT

\$24,000 for bilingual advocates and rental costs

\$1.5M

GRANTS WRITTEN

Office of Violence Against Women, Governor's Crime Commission

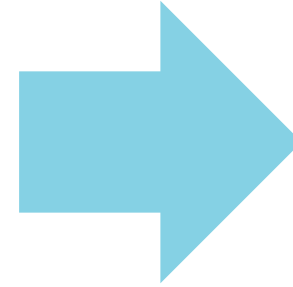
\$550K

GRANTS SECURED

To start a longer-term transitional housing program

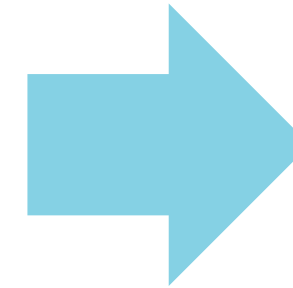
Our revenue increased from **\$180,000** to **\$372,760** in 2022. Our revenue for FY2023 was **\$681,000** and the 2024 projected budget is over **\$1,000,000**.

## FINANCIAL GOALS:



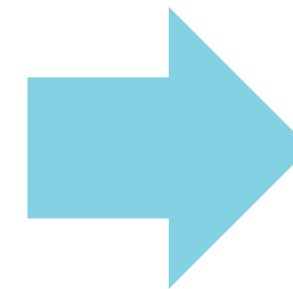
- Apply for federal and state grants
- Increase monthly sustainers and individual donors
- Property donations
- Bequest gifts
- Corporate donations

**SECURE ADDITIONAL \$5M  
BY 2028**



- Create a capital campaign for long-term sustainability

**EARNED INCOME STRATEGIES**



- Thrift store revenue and the development of additional funding sources



## DV/SA SITE VISIT DATA

Have conducted five site visits (3 in NC, 2 in VA), with four more planned in early 2025.

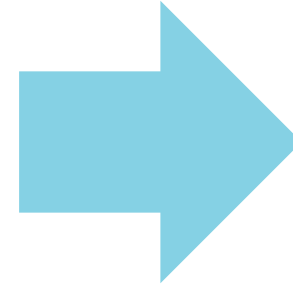
## OBSERVATIONS/TRENDS

- Trauma-Informed Design
- Non-Confidential Location
- Families and survivors have private rooms
- No rules, just guidelines
- No restrictions based on age or gender
- Off-site options for folks of different genders as a best practice
- Partnership with local animal rescue

## NEXT STEPS

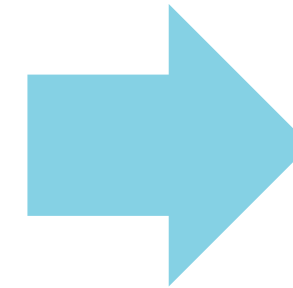
Three more in-person site visits in NC, January 2025. Will incorporate those findings into our plan.

## FOCUS GROUP SUMMARY



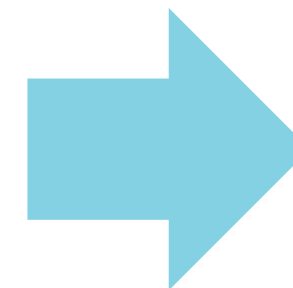
- Two community focus groups, 19 participants
- One in English (Pittsboro)
- One in Spanish (Siler City)
- Community Survey will be dispersed in December (for survivors)

## THEMES



- Latinx community is largely unaware of Second Bloom's services and wants to see SBC center trauma-informed care for undocumented immigrants. Support groups have been a lifeline for Latinx survivors there.
- Importance of financial literacy, assistance finding employment, technology safety planning, emotional support in group and one-on-one, and educating religious communities.

## NEXT STEPS

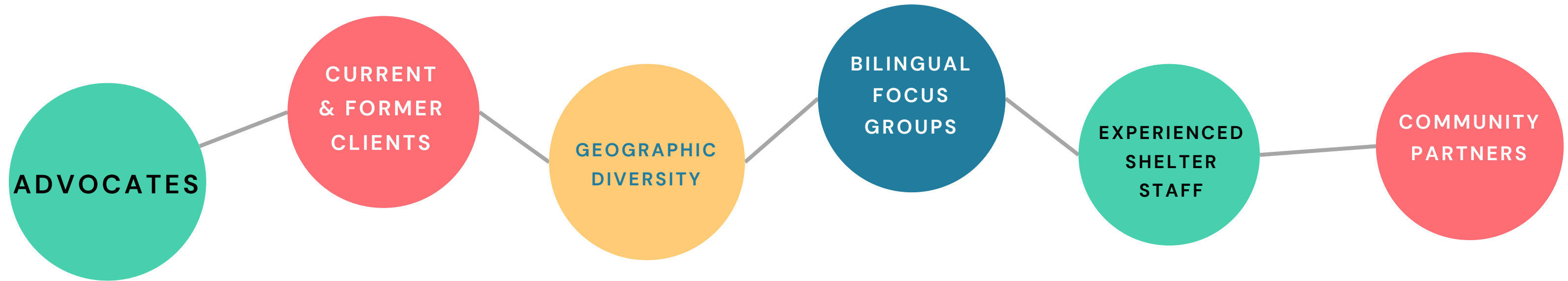


- Community Survey
- Advocates' Survey
- Advocates' Focus Group

# COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Growth  
Mindset

Community  
Informed



Innovative  
Solutions





# SUMMARY

The recommendation of the Shelter Advisory Board (SAB) for providing emergency shelter options to survivors in Chatham is to pursue multiple options of seamless access to care, to include emergency, semi-permanent, and more fluid options.

The SAB, which leverages the expertise of local and seasoned advocates, will continue to make decisions on how potential models will best function in our community. These decisions will be presented to the community by the SBC Board of Directors according to the recommendations of the SAB, with input from survivors and advocates.

A combination of short-term/emergency and long-term solutions is necessary, and the support of the county is critical to our success.



**QUESTIONS?**

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**THANK YOU!**