



2023 / Annual Report



PEER
WASHINGTON
HOPE - RECOVERY - PRIDE



Letter from Our CEO & President

I could not be prouder of the work Peer Washington's staff, board, and volunteers are doing across Washington State. As an organization, over the last few years we have experienced exponential growth as we stepped up to meet the growing need for peer recovery supports. Within less than a decade we have grown from delivering services in a single site on Seattle's Capitol Hill to running four adult service sites and operating multiple additional programs such as the statewide Office of Behavioral Health Advocacy and the Recovery Navigator Program in King County to name just a few.



Even as we are continuing to build those programs, this year, with funding from Washington's Health Care Authority, we were thrilled to launch the Washington Peer Network (WPN). This is something for which the peer workforce has been fighting for years—a coordinated way for peers to support peers across time, organizations, and geography with training, emotional support, access to resources, and celebrations of success. As we move toward implementing new peer workforce licensure options in Washington, the WPN will play a vital role, supporting both individuals working in the peer field and organizations that employ peers to connect, align, and together ensure the development of a vibrant peer workforce in our state.

Growth is exhilarating and challenging at the same time. No longer can just a handful of people keep an eye on—or be accountable for—all of the many services Peer Washington is delivering every single day across our state. To be effective, I recognized we needed to move even more deeply into a shared leadership model. With that in mind, in 2023 Peer Washington held our first annual Leadership Summit. The goal of the Summit was to coalesce as a team and strengthen our coordination and collaboration practices. I walked away from the Summit confident that we have the right team in place—a team who care for and trust in each other, and who together, will enable Peer Washington to rise to meet the needs of our community for years to come.

From helping people access safe housing or find a job, to literally saving lives, I could not even begin to recount all we have achieved this year. But I can definitively say that none of it would have been possible without our amazing Peer Washington team. And I could not possibly be more grateful.

With Deep Gratitude,

Joshua A. Wallace
CEO & President

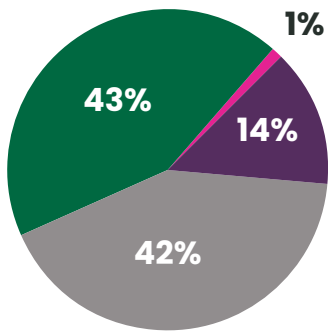
DEI / Spotlight

Peer Washington deepened our commitment to walk our talk as an inclusive organization grounded in equity, justice, and diversity in 2023. Our staff demographics was just one of many ways this was reflected, demonstrating the work we are doing to be a truly welcoming and supportive workplace for ALL people.



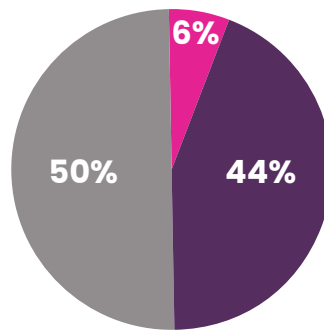
Staff Demographics

Gender



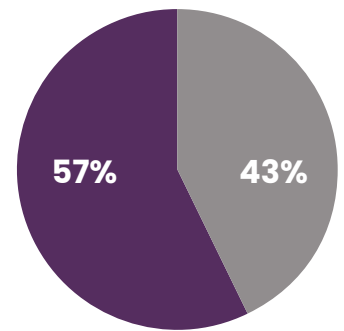
- Identified as Trans, Nonbinary, Gender Non-Conforming, 2 Spirit
- Female
- Male
- Unlisted

Sexual Orientation



- Lesbian, Gay, Bi/Pan-Sexual
- Heterosexual
- Unlisted

Race



- White
- Black, Indigenous, & People of Color

Adult Services

Funding available during the early years of the decade due to the pandemic helped to drive Peer Washington's adult services expansion. In 2023, despite much of that funding being exhausted, we successfully sustained the expanded services at our four adult service sites—a huge accomplishment! We also grew our community partnership initiatives as more entities reached out to us interested in embedding peers into their own systems across the state. This year we saw the impact of the work we had begun in 2022 to solidify our internal infrastructure and increase staff retention come to fruition. Turnover in our workforce was significantly down, the strength of our internal systems grew, and the result was improved services for our community.



Highlights

This year Peer Seattle was a hive of activity as the number of participants in our full array of peer recovery support services continued to grow. Thankfully, our pool of amazing volunteers expanded as well—in fact, at the end of 2023 our number of peer coaches was up 78% from 2021!

The phrase “Community Connection” might best describe our focus for the year. We began the year with an Open House event that included speakers, tabling by other organizations, and even a music group – a good time was enjoyed by all! We followed this in the spring with our first Transgender and Gender Nonconforming (TGNC) Trade Fair. Representatives from 7 different unions attended the fair along with 60+ participants interested in exploring various career paths. The fair was so successful we planned and held an even bigger one later in the year!

In 2023 we also partnered with Seattle/King County Public Health’s Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative to embed a peer on their mobile outreach team, led a workshop at the Peer Pathways Conference focused on how to lift up staff to support a diverse workforce, and partnered with multiple media outlets to heighten awareness about the ongoing challenge of stigma and the role Naloxone and the test strips can play in reducing deaths due to overdoses.

By the Numbers



1016

total individuals served



365

supportive housing & supported employment participants



168

Peer Coaching participants



42

unique support groups



Highlights

At Peer Kent, 2023 was all about expanding access to the supports, services, and resources our members need to move toward health and wellbeing. We began hosting a representative from Multi-Service Center once per month to increase access for our members to the Coordinated Entry program for individuals experiencing homelessness; regularly welcomed Nurse Sonia from Healthpoint who supported our members' health needs with referrals to primary, dental, and vision care; and held monthly Neighborhood Legal Clinics onsite to support our members dealing with legal issues.

All of this took place while our core services continued to grow. We have more trained peer coaches than ever before, delivering 1:1 recovery coaching supports. We launched several new groups, such as No Longer Numb, a group for individuals in recovery from opiates. Peer Kent also continued to house our partnership programs with King County Drug Diversion Court (KCDDC), the Federal Way, Des Moines, and Renton Municipal Courts, and the King County Library System. KCDDC and Courts Program Manager, Marjorie Drieu, was invited to Washington, D.C. to speak with legislators about the efficacy of treatment courts.

"Everyone on our team brings something different and unique; everyone cares so much; everyone has been through so much personally, but they come into work every day and put 150% into what they do. I've never before been a part of anything like this." – Sarah Andrews, Program Director, Peer Kent

By the Numbers



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



Highlights

Peer Olympia turned 2 this year and celebrated by holding our first annual provider appreciation event attended by 60+ people. Strengthening our connections with community service providers was a core focus for the year, reflected in activities such as our collaboration with the Thurston Chamber of Commerce to train new Certified Peer Counselors and move them into jobs; delivery of Recovery Coach Academies in both Mason and Grays Harbor Counties; work with community partners to launch the Unite Us referral platform in Thurston County; and continued commitment to supporting housing access by hosting a Coordinated Entry System representative onsite to facilitate applications by our members for Section 8 housing vouchers.

Even while expanding our community activities, we simultaneously strengthened our internal services. In addition to delivering Peer Olympia's highest number of 1:1 peer coaching sessions yet (1,294!), we successfully passed a fidelity review for our supported employment service. And, during 2023, we were excited to hire four people who had first come to Peer Olympia to participate in services!

We are deeply gratified by the multiple votes of confidence we received from our community throughout the year. Among these was a visit by Congresswoman Strickland who wanted to deepen her understanding of peer support services and see firsthand our services in action. And of course, we were thrilled to be voted the Best Nonprofit in South Puget Sound for 2023!

By the Numbers



678
total individuals served



230
supportive housing & supported employment participants



151
Peer Coaching participants



34
unique support groups



Highlights

What a busy and rewarding year 2023 was for Peer Spokane! We were really hopping, both in our internal services and in our reach into the broader community. The following are just a few examples of the exciting things our amazing staff and volunteers made happen during the year:

- Expanded to be open 7-days per week, 365 days per year!
- Grew the number of unique support groups offered by 50%, including launching support groups in the community at the Sequoia Detox Center and Isabella House.
- Launched the Peers in Spokane Libraries program, embedding two Peer Services Specialists into Spokane's Central library branch.
- Began visiting peers in the Spokane County Jail.

Recognizing the importance of using our voices to impact policies and larger systems, we partnered with Triumph Community Services and the Health Care Authority to begin planning a coalition of Foundation Community Supports (FCS) employment and housing providers with the goal of improving coordination of services, creating worker training and support opportunities, and keeping people in our community from falling through the cracks. We also participated in Senator Cantwell's Fentanyl Roundtable discussion, using our lived experience to help end the crisis impacting our community. Finally, while we are used to being the ones refilling the coffee pot for our members, we were thrilled to be recognized by local news' KHQ with their "Coffee Is On Us" award for our impact in Spokane!

By the Numbers



1016

total individuals served



205

supportive housing & supported employment participants



137

Peer Coaching participants



27

unique support groups



Office of Behavioral Health Advocacy

2023 was OBHA's first full year of operations, and FULL it truly was! Behavioral Health Advocates (BHAs), all peers in recovery themselves, responded to a total of 742 requests for assistance across all 10 regions in Washington. By February, monthly educational forums were taking place in every region. In addition, throughout 2023, BHAs participated in more than 180 educational presentations and community events to spread awareness about Washington residents' behavioral health-related rights and OBHA's services. The expanded access to information and system navigation support, along with the complaint and grievance processes available through OBHA, is well on its way to strengthening Washington State's behavioral health system of care—improving services for individuals and holding providers accountable for delivering the high quality services people deserve.





Recovery Navigator Program (RNP)

Growth was the key word for Peer Washington's Recovery Navigator Program (RNP) in 2023. After launching in South King County in 2022, this year we more than doubled the number of referrals and individuals served; built new connections with local law enforcement, EMT services, firefighters, and community courts; extended to include evening hours 365 days per year; and by late in the year, began accepting referrals to expand the program into North King County. A core focus for the year was building relationships and developing foundations of trust within the local communities we are serving. Thanks to these efforts, RNP's Program Director and other staff are now on a first-name basis with first responders in communities throughout South King County—and those connections are what translates directly into better services, resources, and supports for the people we serve.

591

people served

197

individuals into
detox/treatment

565

referrals into the program

93

people provided access
to transitional or
permanent housing



Peer Workforce Development

PWD earned our reputation as the leading entity for peer workforce development services in 2023. While delivering training for hundreds of people across the state, we also found time for numerous other innovative projects. A few highlights were the following:

- PWD collaborated with the Community Corrections Division within the Department of Corrections (DoC) to create a 24-hour peer support curriculum adapted for the corrections environment. In all, over 70 DoC staff from the Crisis Response and Community Services units completed the inaugural trainings.
- We also partnered with DoC to bring Certified Peer Counselor (CPC) Training to incarcerated individuals. Together with Therapeutic Community partners, PWD trained 85 people, opening a pathway to employment post-detention for trainees.
- Working with expert trainers in the community, PWD facilitated the planning and logistics to deliver Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) I and WRAP II facilitator courses at Western State Hospital. This was the first time the hospital allowed external trainers to deliver training to individuals while hospitalized.
- Together we launched the Washington Peer Network (WPN)! With funding from the Health Care Authority and input from peers across the state, we were thrilled in December when the WPN went live, creating for the first time a platform where Washington's peers—regardless of where they are working—can come together to support each other, build knowledge and skills, and access workforce development resources.



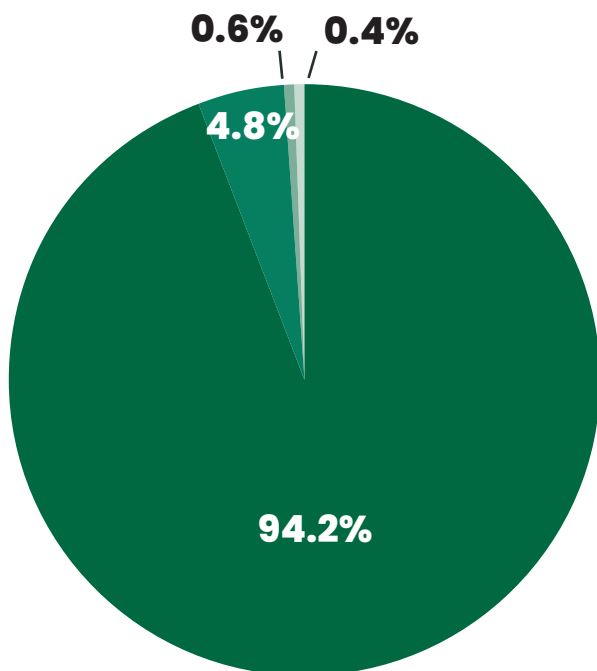
2023 / Financials

\$12,482,072

Total Revenue

\$12,388,654

Total Expenses



Revenue by Category

Contracts	\$11,773,511
Grants	\$603,287
Donations	\$69,514
Miscellaneous	\$48,325

**Preliminary, unaudited financials*

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



1520 Bellevue Ave STE 100, Seattle WA 98122
info@peerwa.org | 206.322.2437 | www.peerwa.org