National Organization for Victim Advocacy

2025 Impact Report

Why We Advocate: Celebrating Community



train. credential. empower. advocate

A Letter from Our Leadership

Dear NOVA Community,

2025 asked a great deal of the people who do this work. Funding shifted. Programs paused. Advocates kept showing up anyway, often with fewer resources than the year before, and always with the same care for the survivors in front of them. That steadiness is this year's story, and it belongs to you.

NOVA's role is to stand with the field and strengthen it. When federal travel restrictions meant thousands of advocates could not join us in San Francisco, we brought the 51st Annual Training Event to them, and nearly half of the advocates who attended were experiencing a NOVA conference for the first time. When agencies told us they were stretched thin, we opened free technical assistance to our members in English and Spanish and launched Advocacy Works to connect organizations with pro bono strategic support. When advocates asked us to make credentialing more accessible, we modernized it.

We also grew. NOVA extended trauma-informed advocacy into new spaces this year, from military installations to the United States Antarctic Program, and we launched the Youth Advocacy Leadership Center to invest in the advocates who will carry this field forward.

None of it happens without you: our members, our partners, our funders, and the advocates who trust us with their professional growth. Thank you for the work you do, and for the ways you continue to invest in this field's future.

We hope you will join us at NOVA52 in Las Vegas next July, stay connected throughout the year, and, if you are able, support the advocates who show up when it matters most.

With gratitude,

Claire Ponder Selib, Executive Director
Angela Seguin, Board President





2025 at a Glance

Across training, credentialing, crisis response, and technical assistance, NOVA reached more advocates in 2025 than in any year before.

12,000+ advocates and allied professionals trained by NOVA

2,067

advocates at NOVA51, with 46% attending the conference for the first time

3,828

advocates credentialed through NACP

5,693

military advocates credentialed through D-SAACP

What These Numbers Meant This Year

Behind each figure is an advocate who gained something they could use on Monday morning. At NOVA51, 2,067 advocates came together, and hundreds of them were attending a national conference for the first time. Fourteen watch parties, from Alaska to Georgia, turned agency conference rooms into gathering spaces. We awarded 82 scholarships to advocates whose agencies could no longer fund professional development.

The rest of the year carried the same reach. More than 6,000 campus professionals and advocates, 1,500 military-connected professionals, 850 crisis responders, and 300 academy graduates completed NOVA training. Advocates credentialed through NACP applied through a new digital system that replaced two decades of paperwork, and the responders trained through our CRT program joined a network that showed up in Los Angeles after the January wildfires and in Kerrville, Texas after the summer floods.

One scholarship recipient put it this way:

> *The training was so powerful. I appreciated being able to attend because of this scholarship. With limited funds for professional development, this training will help me better support victims in my community.* **NOVA51 Scholarship Recipient**

Our Advocacy Community

Membership

NOVA closed 2025 with **1,875 members**, advocates who stayed, renewed, and kept showing up for one another in a year when many professional associations contracted.

New pathways in. We introduced a deeply discounted membership for college and graduate students, a Standard Annual Membership with a 60-day free trial, and six tiers of agency membership for organizations with up to 40 employees, meeting agencies where their budgets actually are.

Learning Together

Members and agency partners turned to NOVA's training platform all year for continuing education they could apply right away.

4,215	3,845	51%
courses completed in NOVA's learning platform during 2025	active learners, most enrolled in two or more courses	of platform users are NOVA members

Our team has had a very positive experience with the NOVA platform. The courses are engaging, easy to follow, and provide practical, real-world knowledge that applies to everyday victim advocacy. One of our advocates recently completed a course that was especially valuable in strengthening her knowledge and helping her apply best practices in her daily work. We highly recommend NOVA to victim advocates and other professionals seeking to enhance their skills through meaningful continuing education.
Casa Luz, NOVA Agency Member

Where Our Work Reaches

Our Members

NOVA members serve survivors in nearly every U.S. state and the District of Columbia, with the largest communities in California, Texas, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

Our Programs and Contracts

Beyond membership, NOVA's training, technical assistance, and contracted advocacy services extend our reach even further. Our federally funded technical assistance serves campuses and communities across the United States. Through a subcontract supporting the National Science Foundation, NOVA victim advocates began serving the United States Antarctic Program, including contracting an on-ice advocate. Our credentialing programs support military advocates stationed both stateside and overseas.

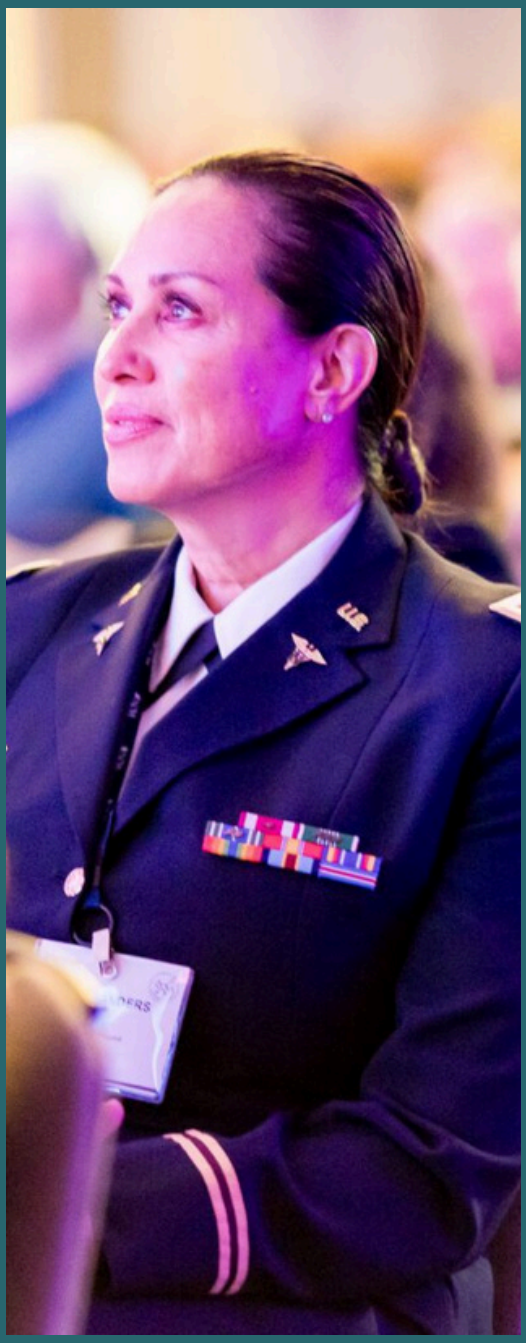


A NOVA advocate at the NOVA 51 D.C. Town Hall

Year Over Year

	2024	2025	Change
Members	1,875	1,875	**Steady**
Active NACP credentialed advocates	3,607	3,828	**+221**
D-SAACP applications since inception	159,086	165,249	**+6,163**







Program Highlights

Training and Technical Assistance

NOVA's TTA team supports campuses, communities, and military-connected systems with the training, tools, and one-on-one guidance advocates ask for. In 2025, that meant meeting a field under strain: rising need, thinner staffing, and grant cycles ending without certainty.

Campus Advocacy

Working under the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) Campus Program, our team delivered coordinated community response (CCR) technical assistance, the seven-week National Campus Advocacy Training, culturally specific programming centering students' intersectional identities, and bilingual resources. With the Mississippi Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Soteria Solutions, we supported two pilot campuses expanding sexual assault victim services and began co-authoring a national promising practices guide.

- 6,900+ campus leaders, administrators, and advocates trained
- 57 advocates completed the 30-hour National Campus Advocacy Training
- 425+ technical assistance requests answered, with CCR toolkits reaching 500+ stakeholders

Military-Connected Survivors

Survivors connected to the military often fall between civilian and military systems that do not talk to each other. Our team built the guidance advocates were missing: Communities of Practice cohorts, a national webinar series with the Stalking Prevention, Awareness, and Resource Center (SPARC), and militaryconnectedsurvivors.org, the first centralized national resource hub of its kind.

- 1,500+ professionals trained through the SPARC webinar series, rated 4.8 out of 5
- 1,600+ downloads of our first-of-its-kind stalking response toolkit in five months
- Free asynchronous courses launched in English and Spanish, rated 4.9 out of 5

NOVA Academies

NOVA Academies give advocates access to comprehensive, trauma-informed training taught live by subject matter experts, from a 40-hour foundational course for new advocates to advanced training on human trafficking and child and family advocacy. In a year when 40-hour trainings became harder for agencies to fund, we expanded capacity by running two concurrent class times.

- Nearly 300 advocates trained across the Spring and Fall academies
- 15 scholarships awarded to advocates whose agencies could not cover tuition

Program Highlights

National Crime Victims' Rights Week

Advocates spend their careers honoring survivors and are rarely honored themselves. During National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 6 to 12, NOVA built a week around recognition and connection under the national theme Connecting < KINSHIP > Healing. We hosted a deep-dive on the free tools available to every advocate, convened a panel of Victim Advocacy Corps Student Fellows and their placement agencies, and closed the week with our Annual Virtual 5K.



Advocates at NOVA's Annual Virtual 5K.

Credentialing: Two Programs, One Standard of Care

NOVA administers two distinct credentialing programs. They serve different populations under different authorities, and both advanced significantly this year.

NACP: National Advocate Credentialing Program

NACP is NOVA's national, voluntary credential for victim advocates working in community, system-based, campus, and military settings. For more than twenty years, applying meant paperwork. In fall 2025, after years of planning, NACP launched a fully digital application, the first major modernization since the program began, letting advocates apply and upload documentation electronically. Alongside it, NACP introduced an ethics requirement, a pre-approved introductory training requirement at every level, population-served tracking, and strengthened continuing education guidelines.

- 3,828 advocates credentialed through NACP in 2025, and 12,329 since the program began
- 3,000+ individual applicants served, plus specialized support to 15 groups including military and college programs
- 13 pre-approved 40-hour trainings approved, and 16 credentialing scholarships granted

What we learned. The digital launch was a success and a work in progress. Standing up a new platform revealed friction we could not have predicted on paper, and we are refining it based on applicant feedback rather than declaring it finished.

Program Highlights

I decided to become credentialed because I believed that victim advocacy should be recognized as a profession grounded in knowledge, ethics, accountability, and a commitment to lifelong learning. More than two decades later, I am proud of that decision and grateful to have been part of a program that has helped elevate and strengthen the field. ***Anika Virgin, CA, Director, Victim Witness Assistance Program, York County, Virginia***

D-SAACP: DoD Sexual Assault Advocate Credentialing Program

D-SAACP is the congressionally mandated program that certifies the Department of Defense's sexual assault response workforce: Sexual Assault Response Coordinators, SAPR Victim Advocates, and program managers. NOVA administers it under contract with DoD SAPRO. In 2025, we executed a new five-year contract that substantially expanded the scope of work, and the team met every deliverable on schedule without a single interruption in support to the military advocate community.

- 5,693 military advocates credentialed in 2025
- 165,249 applications received since the program's inception
- Continued development of a new electronic application and renewal system with SAPRO

DoD Domestic Abuse Victim Advocate (DAVA) Program

In partnership with the Department of Defense, NOVA strengthens training, credentialing, and coordinated community response for advocates who serve military families experiencing domestic abuse. This work is distinct from D-SAACP: DAVAs respond to domestic abuse rather than sexual assault, and NOVA supports them with training and community response development in addition to credentialing.

- Monthly national trainings on safety planning, financial abuse, digital safety, suicide prevention, and supporting survivors through the deployment cycle
- The first-ever DAVA Census and listening sessions, bringing the advocate workforce's own experience into program planning
- An interim 40-hour DAVA Introductory Advocacy Training approved by NACP, opening the credentialing pathway for military domestic abuse advocates
- A comprehensive Coordinated Community Response pilot advanced through four sites representing the Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Army through developing and testing a standardized military-specific framework and a domestic abuse risk and lethality assessment tool, site visits, implementation support, and CCR Institute training
- Danger Assessment certification training completed by 59 advocates, strengthening how risk is identified and addressed

Program Highlights

Crisis Response

When mass violence or disaster strikes, communities need trained crisis responders within hours. NOVA's Crisis Response Team program trains them, and in 2025 our responders were called on repeatedly.

California Wildfires

After the January wildfires, the Los Angeles Mayor's Office asked NOVA CRT to support the Family Assistance Center serving displaced families. NOVA responders later worked alongside the California Emergency Response Corps at the Disaster Recovery Center in Pacific Palisades, demonstrating the NOVA model to CERT members providing direct services to survivors. NOVA also submitted an American Red Cross grant proposal to develop a peer support program for the Altadena community.

Texas Flooding

After the summer floods in Kerrville, NOVA CRT supported the local response and participated in Texas VOAD flood update calls, helping coordinate victim services within the broader disaster response structure.

Beyond these deployments, CRT delivered 47 trainings that reached more than 850 individuals, supported the U.S. Attorney's Office serving Pan Am Flight 103 victims and survivors, responded to the CDC and Emory shooting, and helped Cuyahoga County, Ohio, build a local crisis response team, a model now expanding to other Ohio counties. The team also advanced a full revision of the CRT manual to modernize the curriculum for the next generation of responders.

Youth Engagement

The pipeline of young advocates entering victim services is thin, and in April the federal grant funding NOVA's Victim Advocacy Corps ended earlier than planned. We graduated all 14 Student Fellows anyway. Each earned a Provisional NACP Credential and entered the field from six institutions of higher education; we also published an impact report documenting what they built in their placement agencies.

In July, NOVA convened the Youth Engagement Summit in Washington, D.C., and launched the **Youth Advocacy Leadership Center,** a permanent home for youth engagement in victim services, guided by a Youth Leadership Council of young advocates themselves. What began as a single grant-funded pilot is now part of NOVA's infrastructure.



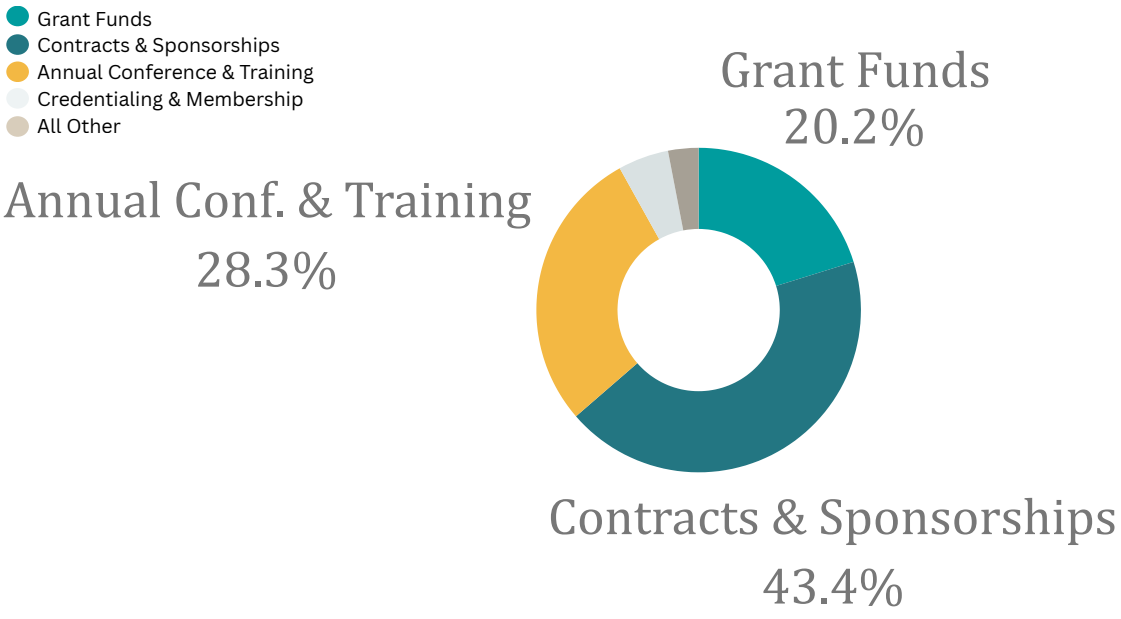




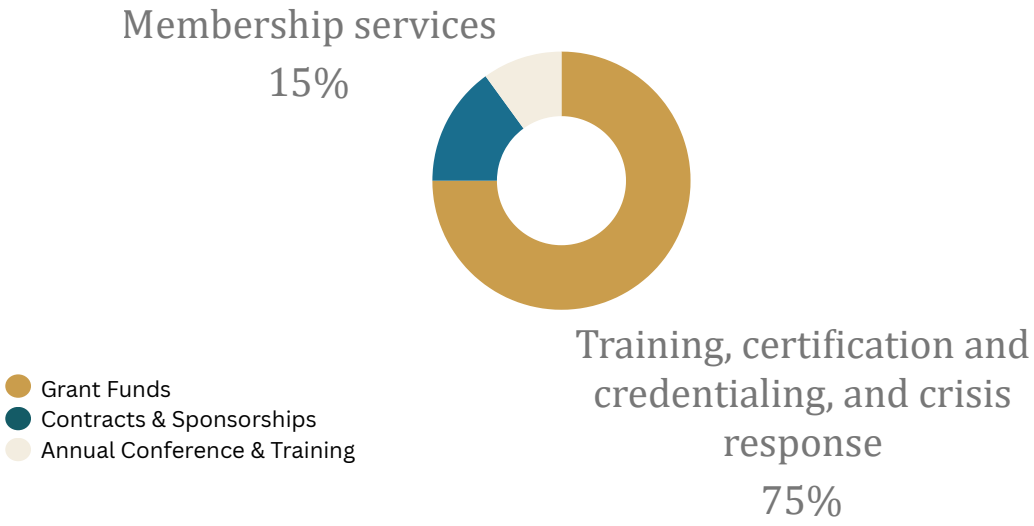
Financials

NOVA completed its annual single audit with Smith, Elliot, Kearns & Company, LLC. Nearly three-quarters of every dollar NOVA spent in 2025 went directly to field training, credentialing, and crisis response.

Revenue



Expenses *



*NOVA's administrative costs are less than 20% and allocated proportionately to the program expenses above.

Our Donors and Funders

NOVA's work in 2025 was sustained by a mix of government grants and subawards, contracts, and training partnerships, each one making training, credentialing, and crisis response possible for advocates across the country.

Foundations and Institutional Partners

Geaguga County, Our Change Foundation, and Fidelity Charitable

Individual Donors

With gratitude to the advocates, board members, staff, and friends who gave to NOVA in FY2025.

Jeannette Adkins · Rhonda Barner · Debbie Bradley · Judith Branagan · Shannon Collins · Luke Cousins · Elizabeth Cronin · Katie Dalton · Steven Derene · Thomas Eybl · Paul Freeman · Christine Gilgoff · William and Gerry Griffith · Daphne Guillory · John and Luis Herrington · Hannah Johnson · Mary Johnson · Nacole Kight · Jesse Lipson · Rebecca Mazur · Victoria Moore · Valerie Pennanen · Hal Ponder · Marlecia Price · Denie Rasmussen · Patricia Saunders · Joann Sperry · David Stewart



Advocates at NOVA's Why We Advocate wall.

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- Dr. Gena Castro Rodriguez. Associate Professor, Graduate Counseling Psychology, University of San Francisco (California)

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- Shannon Collins, Associate Executive Director
- Sandy Hunt, Senior Director of Operations
- Roger Roberts, Senior Director of Crisis Response Services
- María Cristina Pacheco Alcalá, Senior Director of Training and Technical Assistance
- Michael Ashman, Director of Finance


SHARP





Looking Ahead: 2026

Gather the field

NOVA's Annual Training Event (NOVA 52) returns in person July 21 to 23, 2026, in Las Vegas, with a live virtual event September 29 to October 1 so every advocate has a way in. Our 2026 theme, Stronger Together, reflects what this field has proven over the past two years.

Strengthen the profession

We will refine the new NACP digital application with advocates in the conversation, partner with SAPRO on the transition to a new workforce model for D-SAACP, and keep expanding free technical assistance and Advocacy Works so agencies have support when resources are tight.

Invest in what comes next

The Youth Advocacy Leadership Center will train and elevate young advocates entering the field, and NOVA will continue leading the field's conversation on emerging practice, including trauma-informed approaches to technology in victim services.

Thank You

To every donor who gave this year, and to the advocates who chose to invest in this field through Lifetime Membership, thank you. Your support sustains training, credentialing, and crisis response for the people who show up when it matters most.



Join Us

Become a member, sponsor a scholarship, or make a gift.

trynova.org/donate