



FREEDOM OF THE PRESS FOUNDATION

2022 IMPACT REPORT



OUR MISSION



Freedom of the Press Foundation (FPF) protects, defends, and empowers public-interest journalism in the 21st century.

Front Cover / Members of the news media document as demonstrators gather in front of the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., in June 2022. A free and unhindered press is a right guaranteed in the Constitution.

Photo by Stefani Reynolds / AFP via Getty Images
Staff photos by Tess Mayer
Report design by Kelsey Borch

A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Readers,

This past December amazingly marked the 10 year anniversary of Freedom of the Press Foundation. Recently, I've been reflecting on how far we've come in the decade since.

In 2013, SecureDrop, our open-source whistleblower submission system, was just a prototype when we adopted it from the late Aaron Swartz. It's now available in over 20 languages and is used by close to 100 media outlets worldwide, including The New York Times, The Washington Post, Associated Press, and many more.

Digital security was an afterthought when we first started preaching its importance. Now, it's recognized — as it should be — as one of the most important press freedom issues of the 21st century. Over 6,000 journalists have attended a training by our digital security team in the past four years alone!

In 2017, we started an ambitious project, known as the U.S. Press Freedom Tracker, to document virtually every press freedom violation in the country. We aimed for its wealth of data to be the backbone of press freedom advocacy in the United States, but we had no idea that we would document almost 2,000 incidents so rapidly.

Every year, FPF has broadened our reach and deepened our programming. We are working harder than ever to defend reporters against government infringements and equip them with the tools, training, and support they need to inform the public.

All of this progress is in large part thanks to you, our loyal supporters. As we celebrate a decade of impact, we extend warm gratitude and look forward to what we have in store for the next 10 years.

Thank you for all you do to help us protect press freedom.

Sincerely,



Trevor Timm
Executive Director, Freedom of the Press Foundation

10 YEARS OF IMPACT

Founded in 2012, Freedom of the Press Foundation (FPF) protects and promotes the basic human right of freedom of the press, both in the United States, and abroad, in a world where surveillance, censorship, and manipulation are becoming more sophisticated and more pervasive. Here are some of FPF's major milestones over the past 10 years.

2012

December

Freedom of the Press Foundation (FPF) is founded



2015

February

CITIZENFOUR wins an Oscar, documenting the story of FPF board members Laura Poitras and Glenn Greenwald's encounters with fellow board member Edward Snowden as he hands over classified documents involving the National Security Agency (NSA)

May

Launch Digital Security Training program to keep journalists and their sources safe

2016

March

Force FOIA reform through FPF Lawsuit

FPF sues the Justice Department (DOJ), uncovering clear evidence that the Obama administration aggressively lobbied behind the scenes to kill modest Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) reform. This revelation forces the administration to drop its objections, allowing the FOIA Improvement Act to pass shortly after.

2020

March

Launch pilot of SecureDrop's next generation, the SecureDrop Workstation, to make the platform more user-friendly to journalists and newsrooms

December

Document over 140 arrests and detentions of journalists in 2020, a 1200% increase compared to 2019

2013

March

Crowdfund over \$300K for eight news outlets

June

Ensure the U.S. can't persecute Chelsea Manning in secret

When the government refused to publish transcripts and documents from the court martial of accused WikiLeaks whistleblower Chelsea Manning, we led the campaign to hire court stenographers. We gave the public a virtual seat in the courtroom and ensured a permanent, public record.

October

FPF takes over SecureDrop to build on the safe submission platform for sources and journalists

2017

August

Launch U.S. Press Freedom Tracker to document press freedom violations

THE U.S. PRESS
FREEDOM TRACKER



2021

March

Digital Security Training program surpasses 5,000 journalists trained

May

Launch the Digital Security for Filmmakers program in collaboration with documentary production unit Field of Vision

August

Publish the U.S. Journalism School Digital Security Curriculum to help J-school instructors bring digital security know-how into the classroom

2022

March

The U.S. Press Freedom Tracker opens Spanish-language tip portal

As part of our continued effort to connect with all journalists and newsrooms across the country, we launch a [Spanish-language tip portal](#) and translate the site's [About](#) and [FAQ](#) pages.

Present

2021

December

Archive Secure The News after reaching 90%+ adoption rate

Secure The News was built to track and grade news sites' adoption of HTTPS encryption, an essential feature in protecting reader privacy, enhancing site security, and making important reporting harder to censor. In 2016, over 70% of the news sites surveyed received a failing score. [Five years later, we archived the project once 99% of news sites supported HTTPS, many of which cited Secure The News when announcing their switch.](#)

2022

May

FPF team takes on the development of Dangerzone



December

FPF celebrates its 10th anniversary

MAJOR PROJECTS & PROGRAMS

Freedom of the Press Foundation (FPF) works to protect, defend, and empower public-interest journalism in the 21st century through a variety of avenues, including the development of encryption tools, documentation of attacks on the press, training of newsrooms on digital security practices, and advocating for the public's right to know.

Through our four major programs, FPF aims to preserve and strengthen First and Fourth Amendment rights guaranteed to the press.



SECUREDROP

Brave whistleblowers and reporters are increasingly under threat from surveillance, prosecution, or worse. It's why FPF builds and manages [SecureDrop](#), an open-source whistleblower submission system that protects the anonymity of sources, shields journalists' communications, and enables some of the world's most revealing investigative reporting.

U.S. PRESS FREEDOM TRACKER

The [U.S. Press Freedom Tracker](#) is the only news website that documents major press freedom violations in the United States. From documenting arrests or assaults of journalists to tracking legal threats, like subpoenas for source material, the extensive database informs advocacy, reporting, and the public.

“There’s a reason press freedom is protected in the very first amendment to the Constitution — it’s the right that protects all else. Whether you care about the environment, criminal justice, or stopping corruption of any issue affecting our daily lives, citizens can never be fully informed without a free and adversarial press.”

— Trevor Timm, Executive Director



DIGITAL SECURITY TRAINING PROGRAM

Whether they are encrypting calls to sources, protecting sensitive footage in transport, or shielding personal information from bad actors, journalists rely on our highly-specialized [Digital Security Training](#) team in order to do their jobs safely. With an entire program for independent documentary filmmakers and a university-level digital security curriculum, our team protects and teaches journalists from the classroom to the newsroom and beyond.



PRESS ADVOCACY

We engage in [public and legal advocacy](#) with a focus on excessive government secrecy, the persecution of whistleblowers and journalists, and the importance of laws ensuring access and transparency. From suing the government over its secret surveillance rules to leading efforts in protecting reporters’ right to publish, we use our platforms to advocate for journalists — and the public — in pursuit of systemic change.

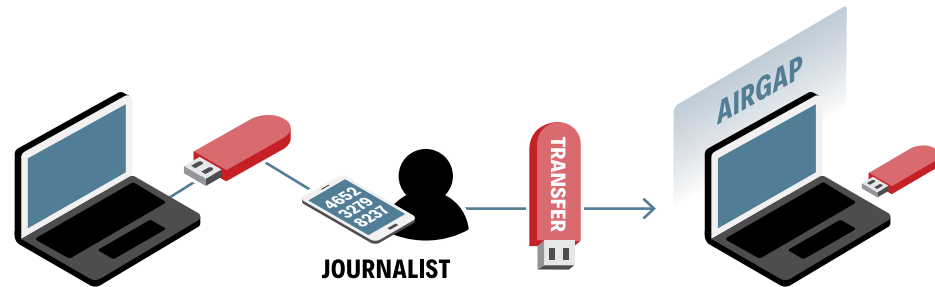
THE NEXT GENERATION OF SECUREDROP

SecureDrop empowers newsrooms around the world to report on information submitted by anonymous whistleblowers. SecureDrop works to establish a transparent and just society where humanity's most important information can be shared with investigative journalists and the public — even when powerful corporations or governments attempt to keep it secret.

In 2020, we launched a pilot of the next generation of SecureDrop, the SecureDrop Workstation. Here's how we are making SecureDrop more secure and accessible for journalists and sources:

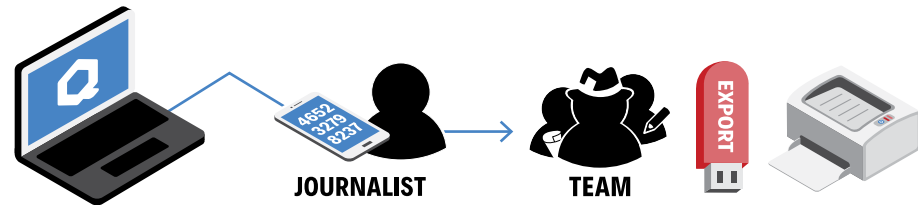
How does the original SecureDrop work?

To view source tips, the original SecureDrop requires reporters to use an air-gapped computer (a machine completely cut off from all networks) to thwart potential malware to view files safely. This offers incredible protection but also slows down communication and tip collection since journalists have to manually copy and move files, usually via USB drives.



What makes the Next-Generation SecureDrop Workstation different?

The SecureDrop Workstation streamlines workflows so journalists can chat with sources and access tip files from one computer without jeopardizing security. Thanks to Qubes OS, the Workstation is essentially able to open a second computer within itself, removing the need to manually copy files. This makes tip review 4 times faster and will allow smaller newsrooms better accessibility to install and use SecureDrop.



The SecureDrop Workstation is in full production by over half a dozen major newsrooms. Once we are finished perfecting a few key functionalities, we hope to start expanding to many more newsrooms.

10 YEARS OF SECUREDROP



In 2012, internet activist Aaron Swartz, journalist Kevin Poulsen, and security expert James Dolan worked to build the original prototype of SecureDrop, then called DeadDrop. Looking for a safer way for journalists and their anonymous sources to communicate, the three set out to find a system that also protected media outlets against government subpoenas demanding to know their sources.

Tragically, in January 2013 Aaron passed away, so Kevin gifted the project to Freedom of the Press Foundation (FPF). Knowing journalists were desperate for a secure way to receive tips from whistleblowers, we made the project a top priority.

Through half a dozen security audits and constant improvements made by our engineering team, we have worked tirelessly to continue Aaron's work and to harden SecureDrop against evolving threats. Since 2013, SecureDrop has undergone 70 updates, each one building upon the last to ensure SecureDrop remains fortified.

The work has paid off: Over 75 newsrooms worldwide (including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *NBC News*, and *ProPublica*, among many others) have installed SecureDrop, and it is available in over 20 languages.

Newsrooms tell us how critical SecureDrop is to their investigative teams, and how its use has led to the publishing of globally impactful news stories. When you read a powerful news scoop, chances are good that SecureDrop was a hidden part of that story.

We extend warm thanks to all the people that have contributed to this project and are excited to expand the impact, accessibility, and security of this project. Like its predecessor, the SecureDrop Workstation will become the de facto standard for secure communication between news organizations and anonymous sources.

What big stories have come through SecureDrop?

By design, FPF cannot access whistleblower submissions on any news outlet's SecureDrop once it is installed. SecureDrop is a tool for whistleblowers to safely and anonymously get in touch with journalists — without intermediaries.

The New York Times



The Washington Post

The Guardian

POLITICO

THE GLOBE AND MAIL*

The Intercept

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



Forbes

San Francisco Chronicle

BUSINESS INSIDER

TORONTO STAR

Bloomberg

VICE

HUFFPOST

The Telegraph

... and many more.

INTERVIEW WITH A

NEW YORK TIMES JOURNALIST

We asked Aimee Ortiz, a reporter for The New York Times, about the impact of SecureDrop on the Times newsroom.

1. How long have you used SecureDrop?

SecureDrop has been a part of The New York Times tip line since it launched in December of 2016.

2. How does SecureDrop contribute to the day-to-day operations of your newsroom?

SecureDrop is checked daily by a Times reporter in the course of collecting tips sent to the newspaper. This process is time consuming but important to the Times because of the security it brings both sources and reporters.

3. What impact has SecureDrop provided for your newsrooms?

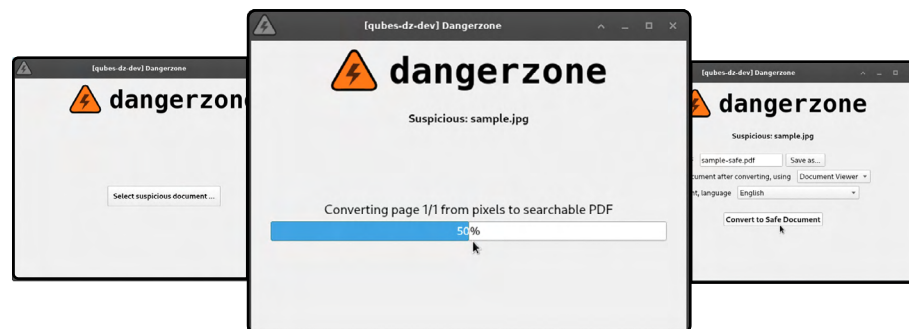
SecureDrop has been the source of several news stories since we launched it as part of our tip line. It has also served as an important channel for sources who want to send us information but face risks in doing so.

4. What is your favorite part about SecureDrop?

The security and confidentiality SecureDrop provides for connecting sources to our newsroom is paramount to the Times. Knowing that we have a way for sources to share important information in a way that protects them makes the platform an invaluable resource. It brings peace of mind for sources and reporters alike.

DANGERZONE

Hackers who target journalists and newsrooms often exploit security bugs in apps used to open common files like PDFs or Word documents. To combat this, [Freedom of the Press Foundation \(FPF\) is now the official home of Dangerzone](#), an open-source tool developed by former board member Micah Lee that takes documents and converts them into safe PDF files, bypassing the vulnerabilities hackers capitalize on so journalists can access the content safely. What remains is the same content displayed on your screen — nothing less and, crucially, nothing more.



“It’s almost like printing the document and then scanning it back in again.” — Micah Lee, Lead Developer

Upon taking over development, our team first focused on allowing reporters to easily convert large, multi-page submissions into safe PDFs to analyze intel even faster.

As FPF develops the SecureDrop Workstation, we have long-term plans to curate and integrate various tools to help make communication with whistleblowers more streamlined and make source tips easier to analyze, so valuable information can get to the front page faster. [Dangerzone exemplifies the first step in this goal](#) to offer journalists a central hub for everything from the moment they receive a tip to the moment they decide to report on it.

“What happens after you receive a document? That’s where Dangerzone comes in. We’re honored to play a role in improving it, to protect journalists and sources alike.” — Trevor Timm, Executive Director

THE U.S. PRESS FREEDOM TRACKER

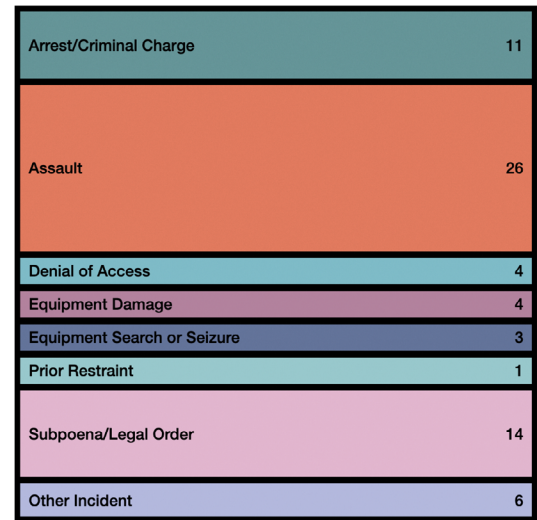
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A database of press freedom incidents in the United States — everything from ● arrests of journalists and the ● seizure of their equipment to ○ assaults and ✨ interrogations at the U.S. border. The Press Freedom Tracker documents incidents across the country, involving national, state and local authorities.

Show data for All incidents election protest reproductive rights

from the past six months 2022 2021 2020 2019 2018 2017

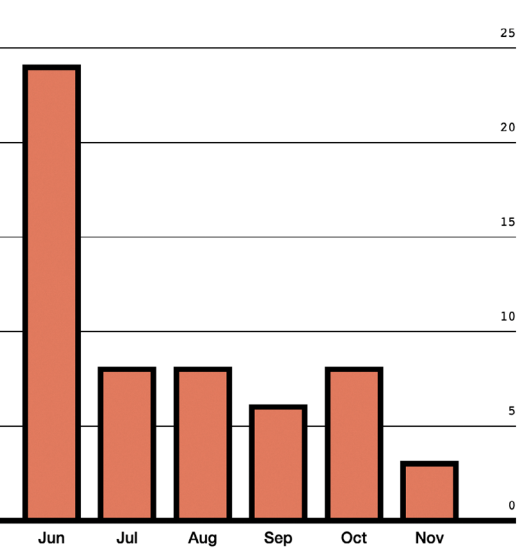
Showing incidents grouped by type of attack. An incident can fall under more than one category.



Showing incidents distribution in the U.S. Incidents are grouped by state.



Showing the number of journalists targeted per month.



U.S. PRESS FREEDOM TRACKER REDESIGN

Explore the database like never before.

For the first time since its launch in 2017, [the U.S. Press Freedom Tracker has been redesigned from the ground up](#). With a new map and data filters, the redesign allows anyone to monitor press freedom trends, see where they are happening, and track their relation to social or political movements.

These incredible improvements comes at a crucial time: With more than 1,800 incidents now in the database — and a team of journalists dedicated to maintaining and documenting them — the Tracker is more needed than ever.

Follow violations across the U.S. in real-time

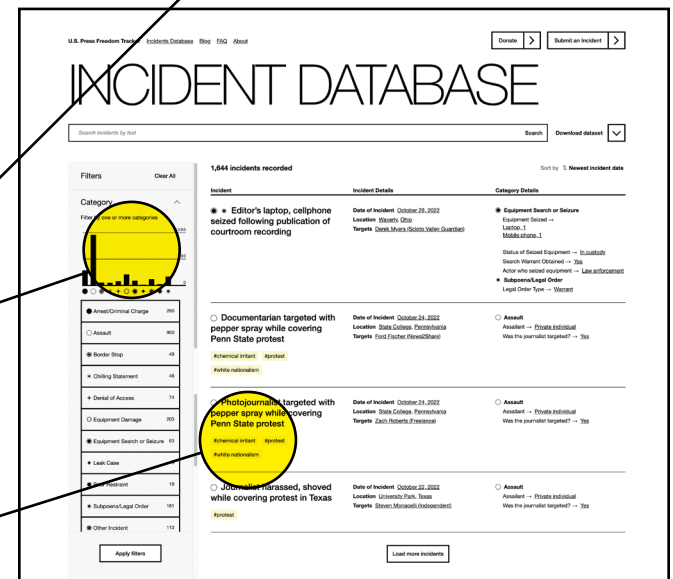
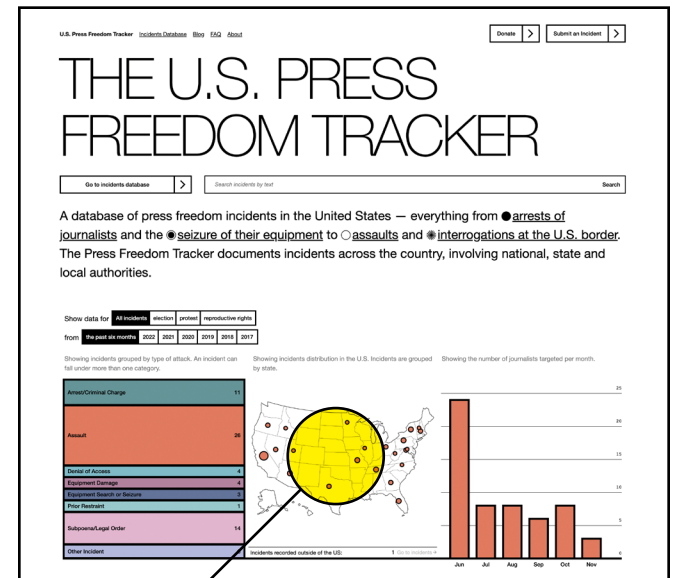
The home page greets you with [interactive graphs and a map](#) that show how, where, and when incidents are occurring. This feature updates the moment new incidents are added to the database.

Monitor how journalists are being targeted

You can easily [filter by incident type](#) to follow press freedom violations, including arrests and detainments ●, assaults ○, and equipment seizures ⊙.

Track incidents connected to trends

With [updated search functions](#), you can categorize and filter violations related to a multitude of tags like #Black Lives Matter, #coronavirus, #Election 2020, #protests, and whether reporters are #shot / shot at, among many others.



5 YEARS OF THE U.S. PRESS FREEDOM TRACKER

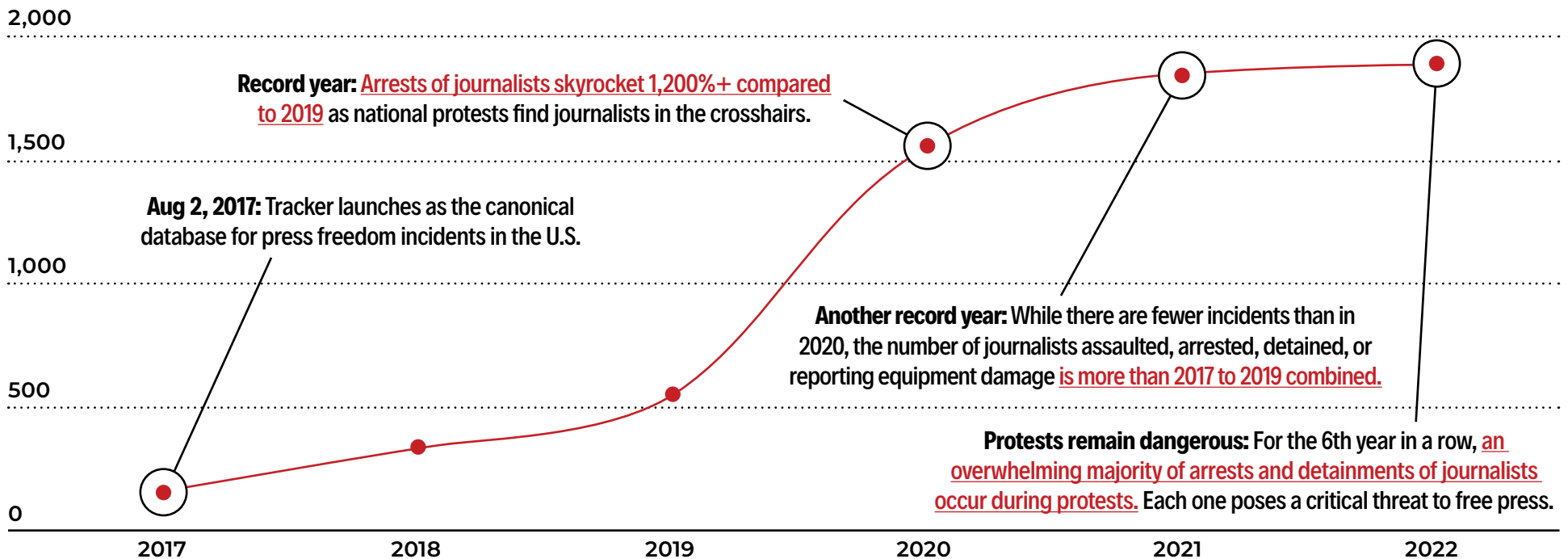
2022 marks [five years since we launched the U.S. Press Freedom Tracker](#), a project of Freedom of the Press Foundation (FPF) and the Committee to Protect Journalists. The Tracker has become an essential tool for building awareness of press freedom issues while demanding accountability.

1,800+
Published reports of press freedom incidents across the country

900+
Citations since 2017, the primary source for press freedom advocacy

100+
Published analyses of major incidents and trends in press freedom

5 YEARS OF IMPACT



STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

We asked the Freedom of the Press Foundation (FPF) what some of their highlights were from this year. Here's what they said:



“In July, a man armed with a loaded automatic rifle was arrested trying to get into the home of Iranian journalist and women’s rights activist Masih Alinejad. After documenting this incident in the U.S. Press Freedom Tracker, Masih reached out to us on Twitter thanking us for sharing her story. It was one of those wonderful moments where the impact of our work felt real and tangible, especially knowing that it offered some small bit of comfort in an incredibly difficult time.”

— Beck Jaeckels, Social Media Fellow



“A big win this year was finally getting our mob censorship and journalism school research published to a couple of academic journals. It was a pleasure working with Dr. Jennifer Henrichsen on these analyses, and I hope it shows just how serious online attacks of reporters and newsrooms are growing to be.”

— Dr. Martin Shelton, Principal Researcher



“I have to give a huge shoutout to SecureDrop translators! They are a big volunteer pool that is a huge reason why our product is translated into over 20 languages.”

— Giulio B., Security Engineer



“I worked with Jess Bruder on online harassment mitigation strategies before her story on abortion rights activism was published in the Atlantic. Shortly afterward, *Roe v. Wade* was overturned prompting us to publish a comprehensive guide on how to protect sources when reporting on abortion. This got us invited to speak at SRCCON where Jess joined us to talk about what methods helped the most. It was an awesome full-circle moment.”

— Olivia Martin, Deputy Director of Digital Security



“I worked with a filmmaker on figuring out how to encrypt hard drives full of footage. We were working on ways to protect it in case they were seized in the process of leaving Russia. Our team puts a lot of time and effort preparing for anything that can go wrong in even the worst case scenarios, so projects like this are always satisfying to complete.”

— David Huerta, Digital Security Trainer

DIGITAL SECURITY TRAINING PROGRAM



Our team of digital security trainers teach journalists essential practices to upgrade and maintain an organization's digital security, as well as provide targeted support against different risks unique to each reporter, like government surveillance, phishing, and online harassment.

Nearly 6,000 journalists have attended at least one Freedom of the Press Foundation (FPF) training since 2018.

Here are some of the courses we offer that cover the most salient and pressing issues facing reporters:



Digital Security for Filmmakers

Our [filmmaker program](#) offers an in-depth platform packed with dozens of digital security resources written specifically for the needs of filmmakers. We also conduct [Digital Security Clinics](#) with groups and individuals to help filmmakers safeguard themselves and their media. This program was created in collaboration with Field of Vision.



J-school Curriculum

Our [digital security curriculum](#) is designed to help journalism schools teach students proper digital security practices to take with them after graduation. These topic-based modules provide up to an entire semester's worth of curriculum.

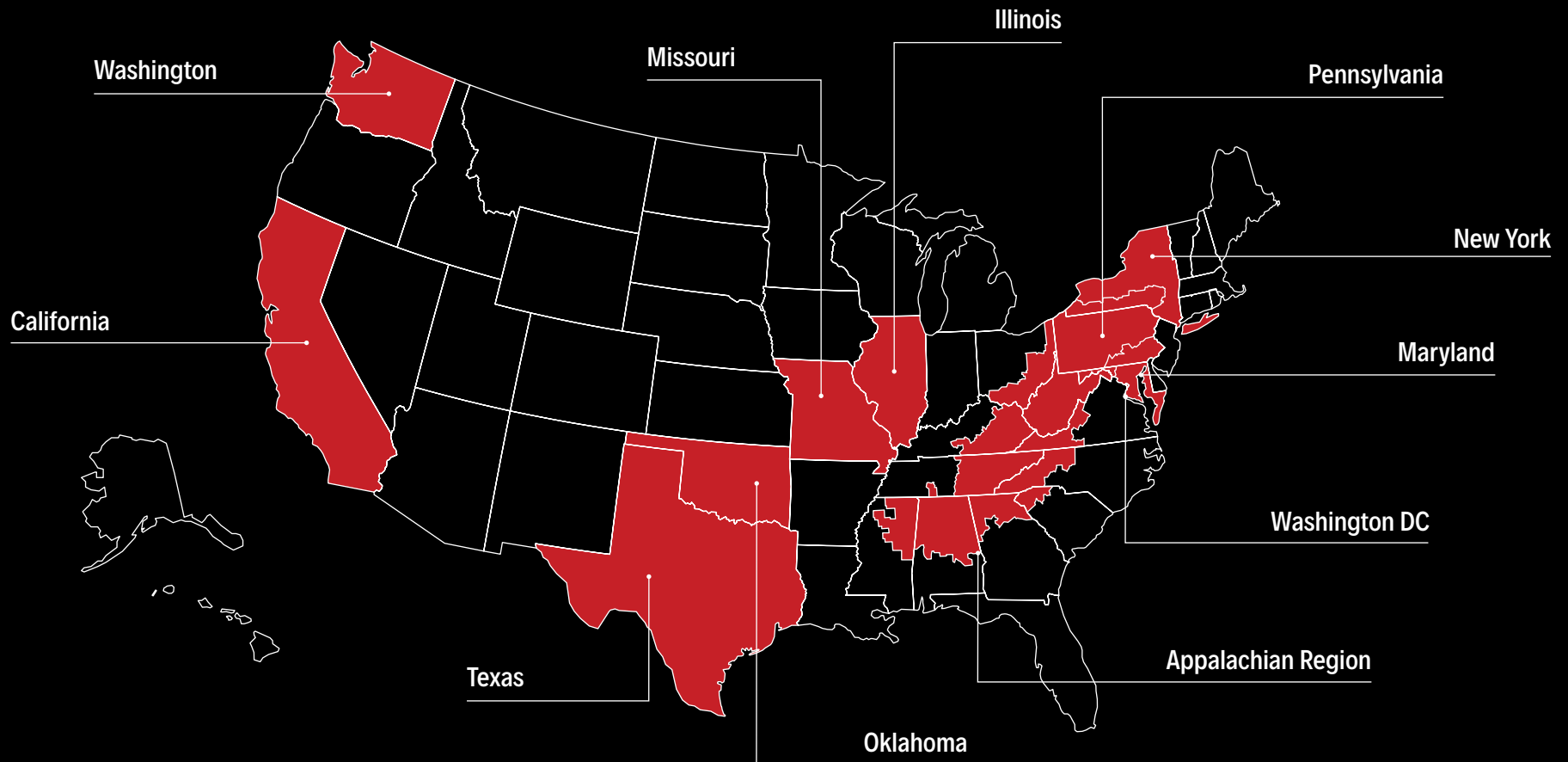


Source Protection Programme

Through [comprehensive eight-week courses](#), we teach journalists and filmmakers how to navigate high-risk reporting while ensuring the safety of their sources. From how to make first contact with sources to how to mitigate retaliation after publishing, our team covers it all. This program was created in collaboration with the Center for Investigative Journalism.

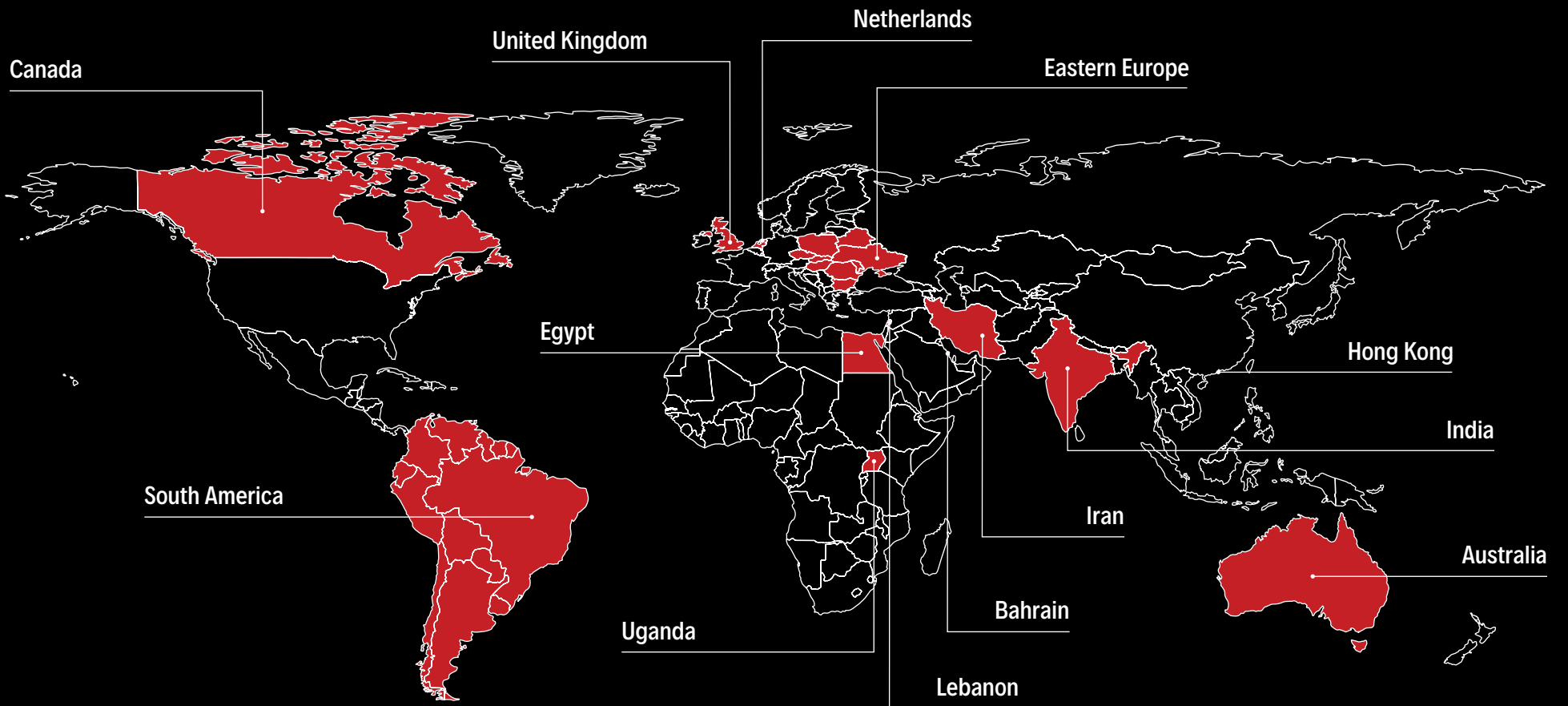
TRAINING JOURNALISTS IN THE U.S. AND ABROAD

It's never been more important for journalists to protect themselves and their sources. The [Digital Security Training Program](#) at Freedom of the Press Foundation (FPF) conducts educational training on digital security tools and safe practices for independent journalists, documentary filmmakers, journalism students, and media organizations in the U.S. and worldwide.



In 2022, our team trained more than **1,800** people.

Our Digital Security Training team also worked with nearly **600** journalists and filmmakers in non-disclosable locations.



MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

This year, Freedom of the Press Foundation (FPF) [announced a new membership program to bring together](#) journalists, whistleblowers, experts, and the general public to connect in new and dynamic ways in support of public-interest journalism.

An FPF membership supports our work and unlocks 12 months of access to exclusive events. From digital security trainings to tailored seminars led by experts in privacy and technology, we are arming our members to fight for press freedom and stay safe in the digital world.

Special events are how our membership program stands out: The same experts who are securing newsrooms across the nation are bringing our members together to protect, defend, and empower free speech everywhere.

Thank you FPF members — you are sustaining our work and helping us create a better future.

EVENTS FROM 2022

Daniel Ellsberg speaks with Trevor Timm on World Press Freedom Day:

On [May 3](#), renowned whistleblower and FPF board member Daniel Ellsberg talked exclusively with FPF members regarding leaks, government secrecy, and press freedom.

Digital Security 101 Training:

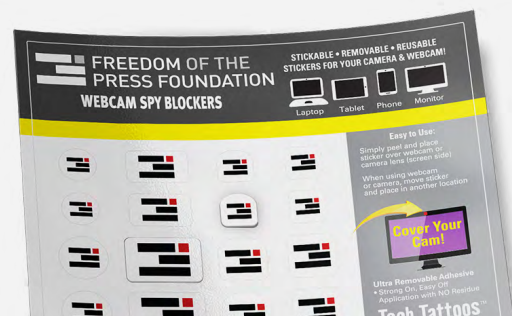
In [June](#), FPF trainers taught the basic building blocks of digital security.

Becoming a Champion of Digital Security:

In [August](#), this webinar showed members how to build upon their 101 Training and take their digital security expertise to the next level.

Defense Against the Doxx Arts:

In [October](#), journalists and members learned how to better protect themselves against online harassment, including from persistent individuals and collective trolls.



STAFF

FPF is a non-profit organization originally founded in California and now headquartered in New York. We also have staff spread across the nation in Illinois, Massachusetts, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin. We also have staff from several countries including Canada, France, and India.

Executive

Trevor Timm / Executive Director

Advocacy

Seth Stern / Director of Advocacy

Development & Operations

Louise Black / Vice President of
Development & Operations

Sophie Hagen / Operations Manager

Bevyn Howard / Grant Writer

Ryan Rice / Development Coordinator

Digital Security

Harlo Holmes / Chief Information Security Officer

Olivia Martin / Deputy Director, Digital Security

Dr. Martin Shelton / Principal Researcher

David Huerta / Digital Security Trainer

Editorial

Kirstin McCudden / Vice President of Editorial

Stephanie Sugars / Senior Reporter, U.S. Press Freedom Tracker

Kio Herrera / Reporter, U.S. Press Freedom Tracker

Beck Jaeckels / Social Media Fellow

Engineering & SecureDrop

Erik Moeller / Vice President of Engineering

Maeve Andrews / Senior Site Reliability Engineer

Allie Crevier / Senior Software Engineer

Kevin O’Gorman / Interim Engineering Manager

Michael Z / Senior Software Engineer

Rowen S / Software Engineer

Riley Borg / Senior DevOps Engineer & IT Lead

Abigail LP / Newsroom Services Manager

Cory Myers / Senior Software Engineer

Kunal Mehta / Senior Software Engineer

Alex M / Senior Security Engineer

Nathan Dyer / Newsroom Support Engineer

Tina S / UX Designer

Web Development

Harris Lapiroff / Principal Web Developer

Cameron Higby-Naquin / Senior Software Engineer

Saptak S / Web Developer



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President / Rainey Reitman

Edward Snowden

Laura Poitras

Daniel Ellsberg

John Cusack

Rainey Reitman

Trevor Timm

Wesley Lowery

John Perry Barlow (in memoriam)

MAJOR SUPPORTERS

Freedom of the Press Foundation is extremely grateful to our supporters, partners, and friends whose generosity makes our work possible. Thank you for all you do to help protect press freedom.

Acton Family Giving
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Committee to Protect Journalists
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David D. Dodge Foundation
Filecoin Foundation for the Decentralized Web
FJC, Foundation of Philanthropic Funds
The Ford Foundation
James B. McClatchy Foundation
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John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
The Omidyar Group
The Park Foundation
Wellspring Philanthropic Fund
Yelp Foundation

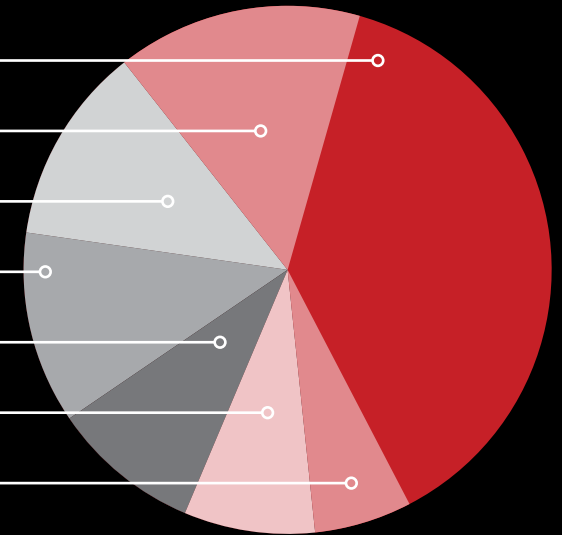
*Please note: we only provide the names of funding sources who have previously given permission to release their information.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Please note: All figures are preliminary and unaudited. Complete audited financial statements and IRS 990 forms from previous years are available at FPF's website, [freedom.press/about/reports-financials](https://www.freedom.press/about/reports-financials).

Expenses

SecureDrop/Add'l. Tech Programs (38%)	\$2,020,554
U.S. Press Freedom Tracker (15%)	\$774,724
Digital Security (12%)	\$618,508
Other Programs (12%)	\$606,373
Management/Operations (9%)	\$480,370
Development (8%)	\$452,710
Advocacy (6%)	\$321,419
Total	\$5,274,658



Revenue

Foundations (67%)	\$3,554,500
Individuals (23%)	\$1,217,500
Program Revenue (4%)	\$200,000
Online Revenue (3%)	\$175,000
Other (2%)	\$68,000
Corporations (1%)	\$60,000
Total	\$5,275,000

