



Impact Report

2025-2026





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Dear Friends and Supporters,

Fiscal year 2025–2026 was nothing short of a landmark year for Advokids. Thanks to your unwavering support, we achieved sustained revenue growth, increased the number of children served by 10%, and expanded our statewide outreach to advance access to justice for children and the adults seeking to advocate for them. With you by our side, we fought to protect the basic right of every child in foster care to a childhood that is safe and secure.

As we enter a new fiscal year, we look forward to launching our three-year Strategic Plan FY26–29, designed to build upon our solid financial foundation and scale our operations responsibly. This vision focuses on four key goals: increasing programmatic impact, diversifying and growing revenue, developing leadership, and strengthening our internal infrastructure. We enter this growth phase from a position of financial health, allowing us to remain a sustainable and high-impact force for legal advocacy on behalf of children in foster care.

Our strategic plan will guide our organizational growth, allowing Advokids to meet the urgent and immediate needs of more individual children every year while identifying and curing systemic failures for the benefit of all children in foster care in California.

To achieve these goals, we are making strategic investments in our people and sustainability. Our organizational growth includes adding staff attorneys to support direct client advocacy and drive systemic reform. Simultaneously, we are leveraging the expertise of our new Director of Philanthropy to formalize donor stewardship and build on the success of our 2026 annual fundraiser. These internal reinforcements ensure that Advokids remains the unique, authoritative voice for children in foster care, ensuring no child pays the price when adults fail them.

Sincerely,



Margaret Coyne
Executive Director & Co-Founder



Mission & Vision

Advokids fights for the right to safety, security, and a permanent home for every child in California foster care. Advokids' envisions a future where every child's physical, emotional and developmental needs are at the center of all decision-making, ensuring them the opportunity to heal and thrive.



Values

Child-Centered Advocacy

We place children's safety, emotional security, and developmental needs at the center of our legal work.

Access to Justice

We believe all children in foster care and their advocates deserve access to free, high-quality legal services and support.

Accountability and Integrity

We work openly and ethically with partners and collaborators to hold child welfare systems accountable.

Excellence in Education and Training

We equip advocates with the legal tools and knowledge they need to be effective.

Systemic Change

We leverage data and experience to identify systemic failings and promote child welfare reform.

Goals

- 1) Make legal support accessible to families and advocates. Ensure statewide access to free legal services that protect children's rights in juvenile dependency court.
- 2) Increase legal literacy across the foster care community. Expand access to legal resources through our free online legal library.
- 3) Enhance professional competency through education. Provide high-quality legal training for attorneys, social workers, relatives, and caregivers to strengthen advocacy and representation in foster care cases.
- 4) Advance systemic change in child welfare law and practice. Turn frontline experience into policy and legal change for children in foster care.
- 5) Build a strong network of informed advocates and volunteers. Expand volunteer engagement to strengthen legal support for foster children.

Avery's Story



Allison was a foster parent, and Mary was Allison's childcare provider and friend. Together they fought for Avery who spent over 7 years in and out of the foster care system, experiencing multiple temporary placements and separation from her brothers. Allison and Mary were Avery's only consistent source of love and safety. They never gave up or lost touch and Advokids was by their side.

"When Avery was 7, she and her brothers were removed for the third time. The boys were 9, 6, and 9 months. This time was different."

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the rest of Avery's story



What We Do



Free Child Welfare
Legal Services



Online Legal
Education &
Self-Help



Statewide Legal
Education



Child Welfare
Oversight & Reform

- **The Only Free Child Welfare Legal Services in California**

Advokids provides one on one legal instruction, tools, and support for as long as it takes to empower any concerned community member in California to participate in juvenile dependency court proceedings and advocate for a child in foster care or at risk of entering care.

- **Online Legal Library & Self Help Center**

Advokids maintains California's most comprehensive online child welfare legal library and self-help resource. By providing accessible, plain-language legal instruction, citations, court procedures, and forms, Advokids ensures that anyone—regardless of background or expertise—can stand up and advocate for a child in need.

- **Policy & System Reform**

Advokids uses its direct service work to track county-level trends, violations of child welfare law, or harmful practices. When patterns emerge, our team engages with relevant agencies or, when appropriate, initiates legal or legislative advocacy to cure practices and policies that harm children.



Board President Spotlight: Karen Wright

We had a conversation with our Board President Karen Wright and discussed her passion for being a leader at Advokids and for child advocacy statewide. Fifteen years ago, Karen was drawn to Advokids by its mission. Today, after years of continued involvement and board service, that commitment has only deepened.

"For me, this is not just a cause, it is a responsibility. It is about helping create the conditions where every child has the chance to grow up feeling secure, valued, and capable of becoming a positive force in their community."

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the rest of the interview.



Donor Spotlight: Kimberly Aquino

We recently sat down with long-time donor Kim Aquino, to talk about what has kept her connected to Advokids for the past 10 years. Inspired by our mission from the very beginning, Kim has become a dedicated advocate and donor. In her capacity as Senior Vice President at Bailard, Inc., Kim regularly introduces her clients and corporate connections to Advokids, extending our reach and impact across California.

"When I think about the social return on our investment in Advokids, I realize our support doesn't just fund Advokids' services—it helps provide a voice for children who would otherwise be unheard."

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the rest of the interview.



An Ear to the Ground that Informs Our System Reform Efforts

Advokids' staff reviews and analyzes all of our cases weekly to identify trends and system failures that adversely affect foster children. Our current reform efforts on the state and local levels include:

- **Promoting Sibling Connections**

Research shows that the failure to maintain sibling relationships in foster care deprives children of a vital source of support as they grow and develop, and causes lifelong grief and yearning. Yet, despite federal and state protections, approximately 75% of siblings in California foster care are separated. In partnership with the National Network for Fostering Sibling Connections, Advokids is developing legal trainings, legislative proposals, and judicial processes to protect sibling relationships.

- **Protecting Children at Risk of Abuse**

Advokids is serving on the California Office of Child Abuse Prevention's Mandated Reporter Training Development Group created to reduce bias and prevent the overrepresentation of low-income families and children of color in the child welfare system. Advokids is committed to promoting curriculum reforms that balance prevention with timely identification of harm that is essential to child safety.

- **Protecting Placement Stability**

Advokids successfully advocated for revisions to California's state-approved Placement Agreement (CA 156), removing language that conflicted with current law and contributed to illegal placement disruptions. The revised form was republished by the California Department of Social Services in April 2026.

- **Protecting Familial Relationships**

Advancing early identification of relatives when a child enters foster care to prevent delayed placements and unnecessary trauma and loss by working with advocacy partners to increase awareness of the JV-285 Relative Information Form.



A Day on the Advokids Helpline

Every day, the Advokids Helpline receives calls from caregivers, relatives, and community members stepping up in moments of crisis—and our staff attorneys respond with free legal guidance, resources, and advocacy to help them protect children.



"I'm trying to find a way to access my personal California foster care files. It's very important to me as it has to do with my mental health and I need help."

– Former Foster Youth

"I am caring for 2 young sisters in Texas. They have a brother who is in foster care in California. I just want the sisters in my care to have a relationship with their brother in California. I am unsure if they have any right to sibling visits since their brother has been adopted."

– Foster Mom

"Our 2 year old grandson was taken into foster care and we were his caregivers for 10 months. He has now been returned to his mom, but she will not allow us to see him. We know that this is not good for our grandson. Do we have the legal right to see him?"

– Grandparents

"We are legal guardians of 3 Native children. We have been struggling to meet their needs for 4 years. The children have essentially been abandoned by the state and their tribe. We need help knowing what to do next."

– Legal Guardians

2026 Reach for the Stars Benefit Highlights



Over 200 guests joined us at the Julia Morgan Ballroom in San Francisco for our "Reach for the Stars" Benefit on March 13th. From a sit-down dinner and lively auction to the powerful "Invest in a Future" paddle raise, the room was filled with a shared commitment to California's foster youth. We were awed by the incredible generosity from both longtime champions and new friends. We wrapped up the night with a casino lounge and a lively dance floor.



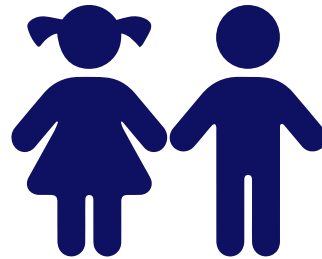
2025-2026 By the Numbers



52
Counties
Served



863
Active
cases



1,078
Children
Served



353
Children
ages 0-5

Our Board of Directors



- Karen Wright, Board President, Retired Chief Financial Officer and Community Leader
- Janet Sherwood, Board Secretary, Attorney at Law; Child Welfare Legal Specialist; Senior Legal Consultant, Advokids
- Amanda Stewart, Board Treasurer, Finance Manager, Amber Kinetics
- Margaret Coyne, Attorney at Law; Executive Director, Advokids
- Cheick Diarra, Associate Safety Director, Genentech
- Tirzah Anne Lassahn, Founding Partner, Stiles Partners

Email our Director of Philanthropy Maureen Garrett mgarrett@advokids.org if you are interested in joining our Board of Directors and making an impact in lives of California's foster children!

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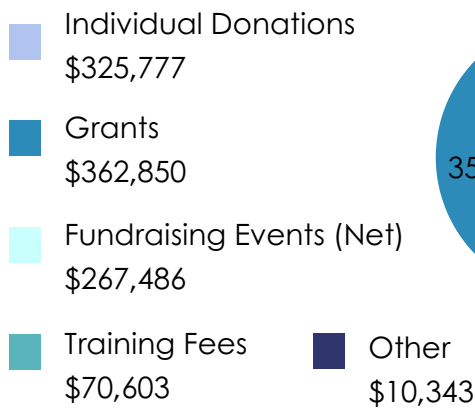
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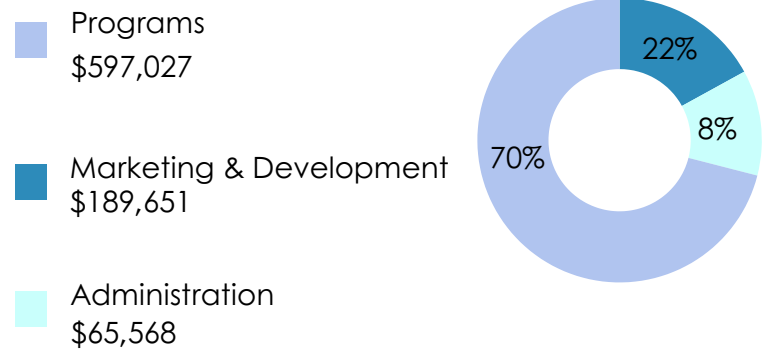
2025-2026 FINANCIALS

Revenue



Total Revenues = \$1,037,060

Expenses



Total Expenses = \$852,246

Thank you.

Because of you, more children are safe, secure,
and in stable, permanent homes.

advokids