



**CAMPAIGN FOR  
SOUTHERN  
EQUALITY**

**2018**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

# Telling a New Story About the South

The Campaign for Southern Equality is working to build a South where LGBTQ people are equal in every part of life. A South where your zipcode doesn't determine your rights. Where all of us are free to be who we truly are and love who we truly love. Our work is rooted in commitments to equity and empathy.



Every day we're lifting up new stories about LGBTQ life in the South – stories of hope, courage, adversity, pain, and community. We share these stories through our email list and social media platforms, reaching a total number of more than **50,000 digital supporters**.

We also see coverage of CSE's work in local, Southern, and national media. In 2018 our work was covered in outlets such as The New York Times, NBC News, The Advocate, Bloomberg, The Asheville Citizen-Times, and NC public radio.

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# Southern Equality Fund

Every day, we witness the resilience, creativity and resourcefulness of LGBTQ grassroots organizers who are working to create equality in their hometowns. We believe that the organizers on the frontlines of the Southern LGBTQ movement can transform our region—but they need the funding and support to do so. The Southern Equality Fund (SEF) provides **funding and training** to Southern LGBTQ folks doing heroic organizing in their hometowns.

CSE is proud to participate in what we call “community tithing,” where we give out **10% of our total organizational budget in SEF grants**. It’s driven by a vision of moving resources to reach LGBTQ people all across the South.

In 2018, we gave out **124 grants across the South totaling \$74,685**.



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# Community Health Program



Health care is a human right, but LGBTQ Southerners face many barriers to accessing the care they need in their hometowns. In 2018, we launched our **Southern LGBTQ Health Initiative**, a partnership with Western NC Community Health Services, to improve LGBTQ health equity in the South by increasing access to LGBTQ-friendly primary care, HIV care and support services. The first phase of this initiative is doing community-based research to learn more about how LGBTQ Southerners experience health care.

## Trans Health Focus Group Project:

This groundbreaking research project documents the experiences of diverse transgender Southerners across six states who shared in-depth accounts of their experiences with health issues and accessing health care.



## Southern LGBTQ Health Survey:

We launched this comprehensive survey in August 2018 and more than 5,700 people responded. We are currently analyzing data with the goal of releasing findings in Summer 2019.

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# Legal Equality Project

## Rapid Response Organizing:

These political times demand that we are nimble and able to mobilize quickly. We're proud to be part of coalitions engaged in rapid response organizing across NC and the South on LGBTQ, immigration, racial justice, health care and economic justice issues.

## Voter Registration:

We're registering voters all year long, building political voice and power for LGBTQ Southerners.

## Passing Pro-LGBTQ Policies:

We're proud to be working with public school systems in North Carolina to implement policies that protect and support transgender students. This includes providing trainings to school system staff and support to student organizers.



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# Equity at CSE

Our equity work started the day CSE launched and will be ongoing during our lifespan as an organization. At its core, our work is based on a commitment to equity: as a LGBTQ advocacy organization in the South, we are part of a community diverse in race, gender, class, age, sexuality, faith, physical ability, and geography.

From 2015 to 2018, our staff and board worked together on **operationalizing equity practices** across the organization, specifically in:

**Leadership  
Structure**

**Core  
Programming  
and Public  
Work**

**Communications**

**Organizational  
and Workplace  
Culture**

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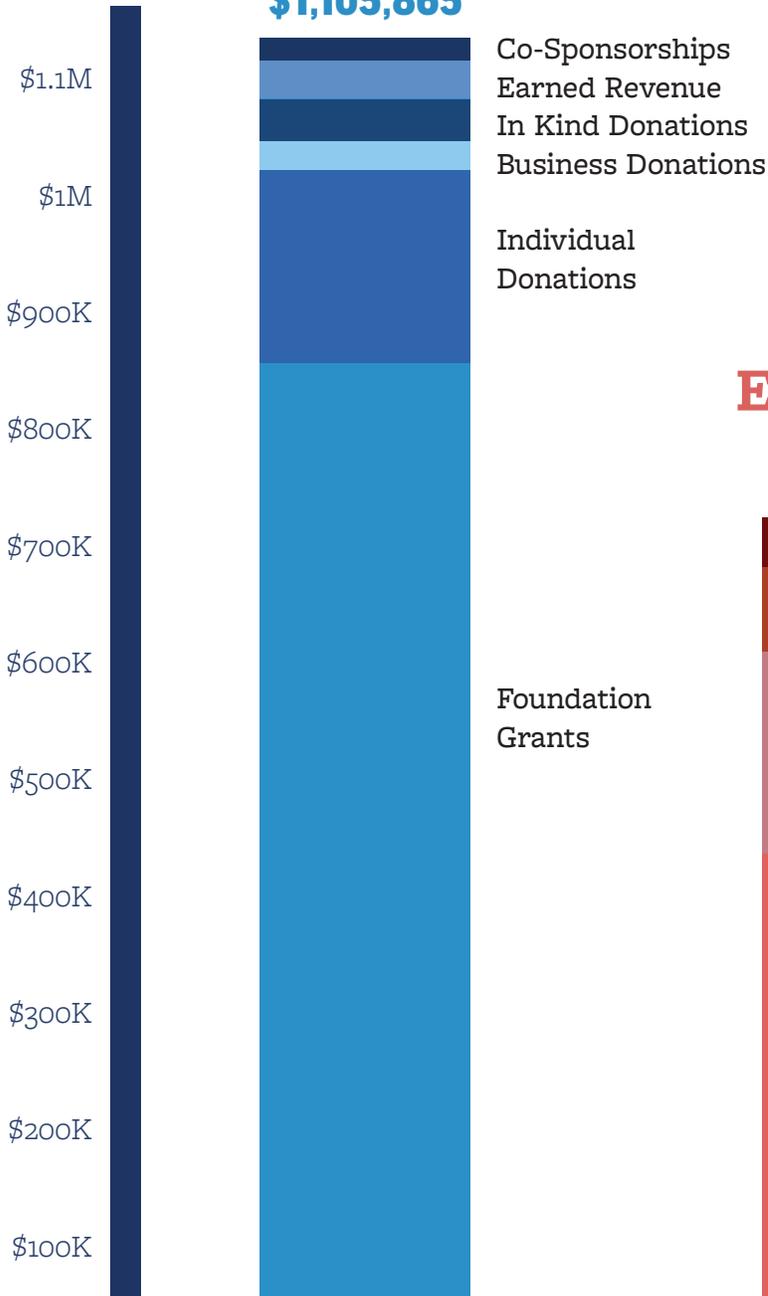


In 2019, we are embarking on the next phase of our equity work - a deep dive on how equity intersects with organizational culture.

# Finances

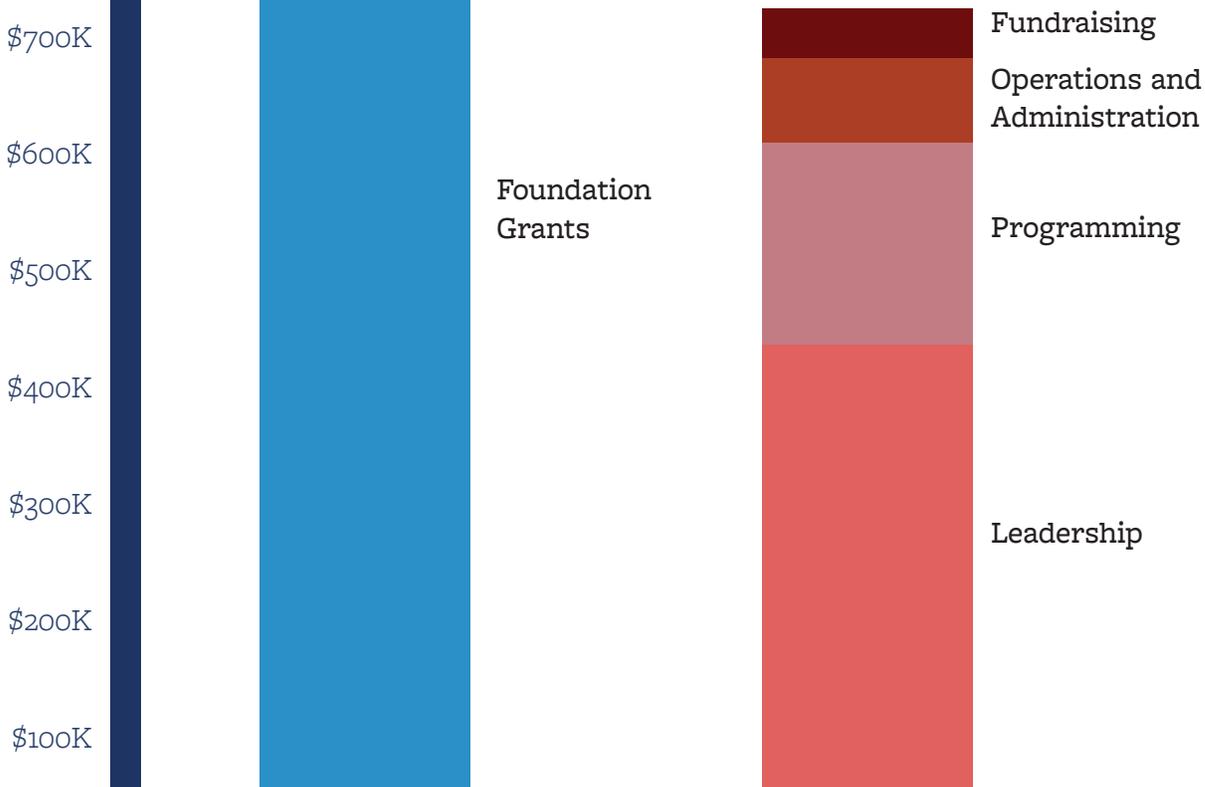
## Income

**\$1,105,865**



## Expenses

**\$735,992**



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# THANK YOU

## FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO

We are so grateful to everyone who is part of the CSE community – for your courage, your belief in this work, and the tangible ways you support us, from showing up for actions, to sharing meals together, to donating. Thank you.

[www.southernequality.org](http://www.southernequality.org)