

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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Inside

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Services we provided  
in 2024

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Program Highlights

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**Atlantis Community, Inc.**



## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on 2024, it is clear that this was a year of challenge, reflection, and ultimately, renewal for Atlantis Community, Inc. Although the height of the pandemic is behind us, its long-term impacts on our organization and the disability community remain deeply felt. More than anything, 2024 marked a period of rebuilding.

For much of 2023 and the early part of 2024, Atlantis operated without an Executive Director. During that time, our leadership team rose to the occasion, keeping our doors open and our services moving forward. Their commitment, alongside an increasingly engaged and supportive Board of Directors, helped stabilize the organization during an uncertain period.

I was honored to join the Atlantis family in June 2024. From day one, my focus has been on re-establishing strong foundations: evaluating internal systems, clarifying roles, and building a structure capable of sustaining our mission well into the future.



We undertook a significant organizational restructuring to improve our efficiency and effectiveness, while centering the voices and needs of our staff and community members. As we approach our 50th anniversary, we have begun laying the groundwork for a new five-year strategic plan—one that positions

Atlantis as a renewed force for disability rights and independent living. We have prioritized staff development, capacity-building, and community re-engagement. We proudly relaunched our adult transitions program and are excited to debut our youth transition services in the coming year. To support these efforts, we welcomed a Director of Resource Development, who will lead the charge in strengthening and diversifying our funding streams.

Looking ahead to 2025, our focus will be on implementing this strategic vision, expanding both our core and complementary services, and building long-term organizational stability. Atlantis is ready to reassert its role as a leading advocate and resource for people with disabilities. Thank you for your continued support and belief in our work.

With gratitude,

Brian Grewe, Ph.D.

# SERVICES WE PROVIDED 2024

137

HOUSING

27

PEER  
COUNSELING  
SERVICES

47

COMMUNICATION  
SERVICES

120

ADVOCACY

298

INDEPENDENT  
LIVING AND LIFE  
SKILLS TRAINING

1,551

INFORMATION  
AND REFFERAL

441

TOTAL  
CONSUMERS  
SERVED

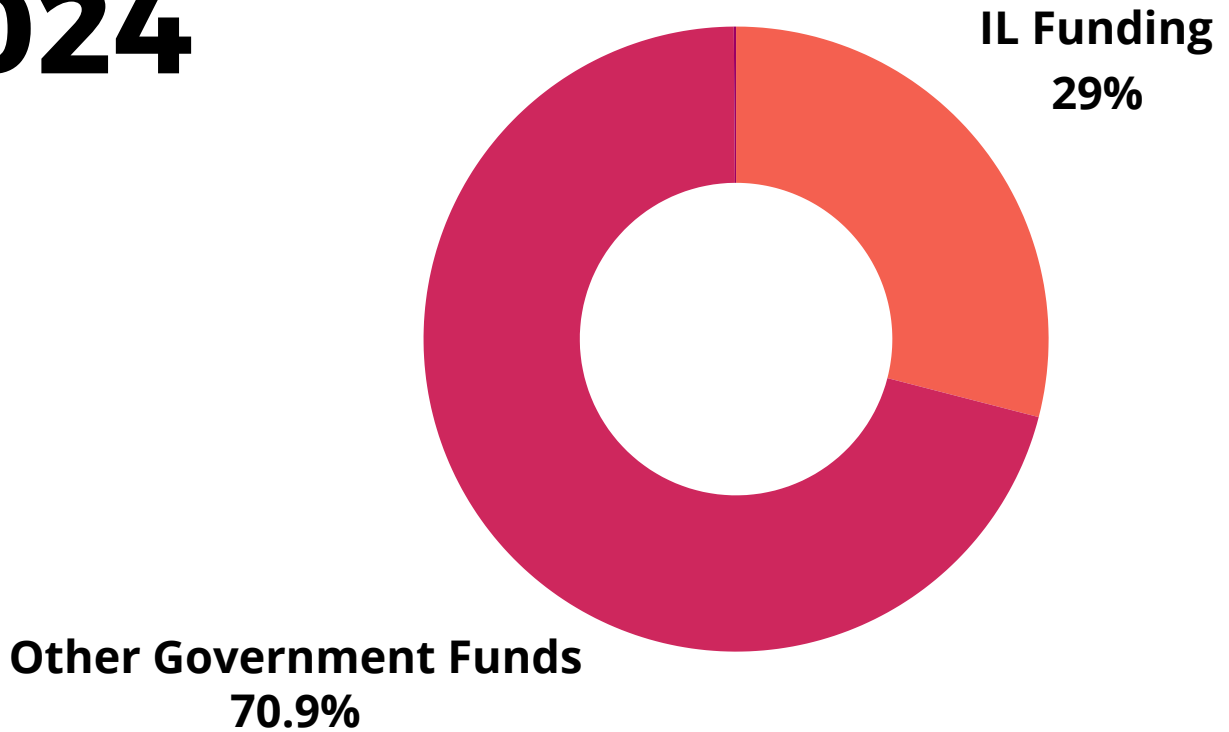
2,283

TOTAL  
SERVICES  
PROVIDED

# FINANCIALS

## FUNDING

# 2024



## GRANT SPOTLIGHT

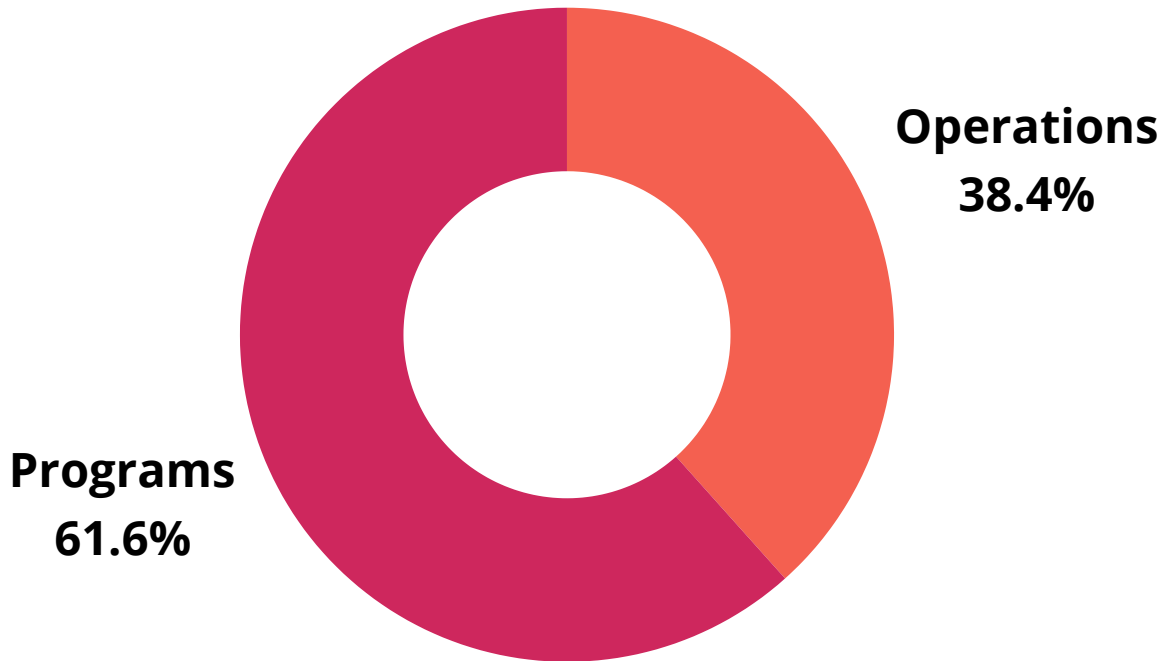
YOUTH PROGRAMMING  
"SUMMER WORKFORCE PROGRAM"  
AMOUNT: \$38,000

INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM  
"RENTAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT"  
AWARD AMOUNT: \$11,250

# FINACIALS

## WHERE OUR MONEY GOES

### 2024



## GRANT SPOTLIGHT

PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE  
AMOUNT AWARDED: \$260,526

GENERAL OPERATION SUPPORT  
AMOUNT AWARDED: \$15,000

TAG PROGRAM VOUCHER SUPPORT  
FOR ACI CONSUMERS  
AMOUNT AWARDED: \$1,375

# ACI Core Values



## EMPOWERMENT

Empowerment focuses on building confidence and capability so that people with disabilities can advocate for their rights and take active roles in shaping their futures.

## EQUITY

Equity emphasizes that true fairness is not treating everyone the same but ensuring that people have the specific resources and accommodations they need to succeed.

## INDEPENDENCE

We believe in creating a community where everyone is valued, respected, and is afforded equal opportunity to fully participate in all aspects of society.

## INCLUSION

Inclusion means breaking down barriers so that individuals with disabilities can engage in every part of life, from social interactions to employment and education, without discrimination or segregation.



## ACCESSIBILITY

Accessibility goes beyond compliance with standards and ensures that individuals with disabilities can fully access services, spaces, information, and opportunities without encountering obstacles.

# ACI Core Services



## INFORMATION AND REFERRAL (I&R)

Atlantis serves as a hub of information, helping individuals connect to a variety of community resources, programs, and services that support independent living.

## INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS TRAINING

This service may include training on budgeting, navigating public transportation, self-advocacy, cooking, or managing personal care, depending on the specific needs of each individual.

## ADVOCACY

Atlantis provides advocacy at both the individual level—helping people navigate systems like healthcare, housing, and employment—and at the systems level, advocating for policies and practices that promote disability rights and inclusion.

## TRANSITION SERVICES

Atlantis provides transition support to those seeking to leave nursing homes or other institutions, as well as youth transitioning to adulthood, focusing on employment, education, and independent living skills.



## PEER SUPPORT

Peer support is essential for fostering self-confidence and empowerment, as it allows people with disabilities to connect with others who have faced similar challenges, offering insight and encouragement.

# Program Highlights 2024



## SUMMER YOUTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Atlantis Community, Inc. recruited 10-12 high school students with disabilities for a five-week paid summer internship, providing hands-on experience in office skills, advocacy, and nonprofit operations. Students will work part-time at Denver's minimum wage, learn about disability rights and justice, and develop their own projects. Staff and guest facilitators will provide training and support, with opportunities for past participants to return as peer mentors.

## RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

With the funding received, Atlantis Community, Inc. provided \$500 per consumer for rental assistance, utilities, and application fees, supporting an average of 20 consumers. The grant also strengthened our housing advocacy efforts, helping individuals navigate landlord disputes, accessibility needs, evictions, and financial aid programs like SSI, Medicaid, and SNAP. This support ensured greater housing stability for people with disabilities, including BIPOC and LGBTQA+ communities.

## NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Brian Grewe (he/him) joined Atlantis Community, Inc. in June 2024, bringing with him over 20 years of experience in disability advocacy, higher education, and organizational leadership. In his first year as Executive Director, Brian has prioritized collaboration, transparency, and community engagement—ensuring Atlantis remains a powerful voice for disability rights while evolving to meet the needs of today's disability community. Under his leadership, Atlantis is rebuilding its internal capacity and strengthening its role as a Center for Independent Living dedicated to equity, access, and independence.

Beyond his work at Atlantis, Brian is an academic at heart. He continues to publish and present nationally on topics related to disability, ethics, and inclusive practices, and regularly consults with organizations striving to advance access and justice. A husband of 20 years and proud father of two sets of twins, Brian approaches his work with both personal passion and professional integrity, driven by the belief that all people with disabilities deserve the opportunity to thrive in communities of their choice.



# Individual Successes 2024



## TRAINING FOR CHANGE: LAW ENFORCEMENT & UNSEEN DISABILITIES

To bridge the gap between law enforcement and individuals with unseen disabilities, ACI's Mental Health Specialist led a training for 30 Denver Sheriff's Department officers. Alongside the Disaster Preparedness Coordinator and Director of Resource Development, they shared personal experiences and provided practical strategies to create more inclusive, disability-informed policing practices.

 **Breaking barriers through education!**

## FROM UNHOUSED TO INDEPENDENT

One consumer, struggling with homelessness, set ambitious goals: secure permanent housing, reinstate long-term care benefits, replace a lost Social Security card, and gain Access-a-Ride approval. With the Mobile Unit's dedicated support, he achieved them all—a testament to the power of consistent advocacy and resources.

 **Building stability, step by step!**

## SMOOTH TRANSITION: SUPPORT BEYOND BORDERS

Relocating across state lines can be overwhelming—especially for individuals relying on critical services. When one consumer moved to Oregon, ACI didn't simply close her case. Instead, IL Specialists connected her with a local Center for Independent Living (CIL), ensuring she had access to resources and support in her new community.

 **Independence knows no borders!**



# STRATEGIC PLAN

## GOALS 2025 - 2030



### INTERNAL GOALS

- Enhance staff capacity and knowledge base
- Increase organizational efficiency
- Strengthen Internal Communication
- Diversify Funding Sources
- Expand Service Offerings

### EXTERNAL GOALS

- Foster Community Partnerships
- Increase Consumer Satisfaction and Engagement
- Raise Community Awareness
- Expand Advocacy Efforts
- Increase and Diversify Funding from Individual Donors, Sponsorships, and Grants

# THANK YOU

## OUR 2024 SUPPORTERS

JAMIE PERKINS  
NANCY NIXON  
JED ZIEGENHAGEN  
CHARLIE MERROW  
DEVIN KEPLER  
DAVID TOOPS  
MARY ANDERIES  
BARRY BERLIN

KATHLEEN WALSH  
COURTNEY TRIPP  
MORGAN MATTER  
KRISTIE CHEYNE  
LEAH JARON  
THOMAS JARON  
DORENE FORRESTER

**PayPal**  
Giving Fund



## OUR 2024 GRANTS



**WE LOOK  
FORWARD TO  
CONTINUING  
TO WORK  
WITH YOU IN  
2025!**