

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

**Young people have always been leaders in movements for social justice and rights. And they kept it up in 2020, finding new ways to lead in some of the most dire moments in our nation's history. Advocates for Youth was honored to work alongside young people in 2020, the year that tried to stop us but couldn't.**

## Here are our Top 20 of 2020:

- 1. When we worked with young people to develop the skills needed to lead the summer of activism.** When police violence this summer led to widespread demonstrations and violent crackdowns from law enforcement, young people took the lead, and Advocates quickly pivoted to provide training and support. Our weekly training series offered workshops and community building for direct action, mutual aid, how to support an activist who is arrested during protest, and more. We are proud to continue to work alongside activists who are demanding safety, freedom, and an end to police violence and militarized police forces.
- 2. When we looked to the future of abortion and found young people helping each other.** In June of 2020, Advocates for Youth launched YouthASC, a network of over 200 young people committed to supporting abortion access in their communities. These youth will become resources for those seeking abortion by providing information about clinic services, funding assistance, and self-managed abortion. In addition they will join or launch practical support networks in their regions to provide travel and housing assistance to those who need it. Young people will ensure abortion stays available regardless of politicians and justices who stand in the way.
- 3. When we helped sex educators go virtual during COVID-19.** In 2020, Advocates adapted 32 lesson plans from the comprehensive, 3Rs sex education curriculum to the digital platform, Google Classroom. Advocates also created three grade bands for elementary, middle, and high school students and linked AMAZE videos to the lesson plans. Over 2,500+ educators and school districts have signed up to receive the Google Classroom lesson plans, including Los Angeles Unified School District, the second largest school district in the country with more than 600,000 students. Last year, Advocates pilot tested more than 20 training modules, created marketing materials, and began providing school districts with training on Virtual PD, our virtual classroom with student avatars. Also in 2020, Advocates launched a version of Virtual PD for health care providers. The training modules teach clinicians to take inclusive and effective sexual health histories, remove assumptions about patients' sexual orientations and behaviors when asking about sexual histories, and use more inclusive language when providing care.
- 4. When we got the report card on our contraceptive work and it was straight A's.** For three years, Advocates has been working on a youth-driven, systems change initiative designed to restructure the way in which communities provide contraceptive care to young people — making sure services are youth-friendly and inclusive. And this year, an evaluation found we got it right. Across the three-year project, the 21 participating health centers provided annual health care visits to 56,439 young people in the target age range, a 41 percent increase from baseline. Of these, 16,866 clients received contraceptive care — a 61 percent increase from baseline.
- 5. When we worked to make spaces safer for transgender youth.** Quarantine proved especially challenging for LGBTQ young people who couldn't safely be themselves at home. Advocates continued our work to make the world a safer and more welcome place for these youth. We led observance of International Pronouns Day, sharing the All Students Count coalition's important findings from an independent analysis of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey on health disparities among trans youth of color. And during transgender awareness week, we launched the "Safer Spaces Toolkit" designed to help educators and youth-serving professionals ensure they welcome and affirm trans young people.

**6. When Betsy’s Title IX rule dropped and we said “See you in court.”** In May, the Department of Education finalized its rules on Title IX and sexual assault, removing many protections for survivors. Know Your IX activists immediately launched the #HandsOffIX Summer Intensive to train organizers how to continue working to end gender-based violence on college campuses. And then, with the ACLU, we filed suit for the violation of student survivors’ rights inherent in the new rule.

**7. When we reminded folks about the other pandemic - HIV.** Advocates observed AIDS Awareness Week from November 30 to December 4, sharing the stories of young people living with HIV; offering training on the Medical Mentorship Toolkit created specifically for organizations and individuals dedicated to supporting youth, ages 13 to 24 living with HIV, to smoothly transition to and navigate adult care; and advocating for an end to harmful HIV criminalization laws nationwide.

**8. When we brought organizations working on youth abortion access together to maximize our collective impact.** In 2020, Advocates helped launch a new collaboration, the Youth Abortion Access Table (YAAT), alongside URGE and If/When/How. The vision of this partnership is simple: young people deserve access to quality, confidential abortion care — without burdens or barriers, and with the support of their choosing. We’ve built out a multi-pronged approach to this work: 1) policy advocacy; 2) communications and culture shift; and 3) youth organizing and mobilization. Additionally, Advocates spearheaded the first national messaging poll on youth access to abortion in over a decade.

**9. When we expanded the AMAZE animated sex ed project far and wide across the globe.** AMAZE global partnerships extend through 48 countries with videos adapted and translated for these audiences. Our four largest partnerships on YouTube (Latin America, East and Southern Africa, South Korea, and Japan) alone have accumulated over 3.5 million online views to date and have a projected future annual view rate of over 4.3 million

**10. When young people led the fight to stop the Louisiana ballot initiative.** Activists in Louisiana fought for nearly a year to stop Louisiana’s stigmatizing and unnecessary ballot initiative that specifies that abortion is not a right. And although the powerful conservative support of the amendment won the day, canvassing and education efforts strengthened the reach and power of the abortion access network in Louisiana.

**11. When we were stocking up on cold medicine, tissues, and food at the start of the pandemic, but couldn’t do the same with another daily medication, the birth control pill.** Advocates for Youth in a partnership with Ibis and Free the Pill offered young people information about restrictions on birth control, their rights, and how to acquire contraception safely during the pandemic, including a webinar with Shan Boodram, Dr. Dan Grossman, and youth activist Tyunique to discuss restrictions and barriers.

**12. When youth leaders had all the wins.** Young people didn’t let up their activism in 2020 despite the change in conditions. They changed the world and their own communities, including:

- **Free the Pill activist Jaden** partnered with a local healthcare provider to dispense over two thousand condoms on his campus at Austin Peay State University.
- **Abortion Out Loud activist Cassidy** held events that reached over 400 to inform and engage fellow students on the fight for abortion access in Louisiana.
- **Youth Resource member Shabre** successfully campaigned to get gender-neutral bathrooms on the campus of the University of the District of Columbia.
- **Campus Organizer Shreya**, at the University of Alabama, Birmingham, won one of her campaigns to provide nearly 60 free menstrual product dispensers throughout campus. Shreya was able to work with and pressure her student government to allocate \$13,000 to install and maintain these dispensers.
- **Student Organizer August**, at Towson University in Maryland, successfully wrote and campaigned for the adoption of an HIV prevention, treatment, care, and non-discrimination policy at the university.

**13. When we made sure folks watching the SCOTUS abortion case heard from youth organizers and youth abortion storytellers.** Before the pandemic forced a national quarantine, the Supreme Court heard arguments on *June Medical v. Russo*, a case which examined a restrictive law identical to one already overturned by SCOTUS in 2016. Advocates brought seven Louisiana-based activists to DC for training in media and organizing and arranged for them to speak with journalists and attend the rally. One activist spoke at the rally, demanding recognition for young people's abortion rights. Public pressure is believed to have been a factor in the court's ultimately ruling in favor of abortion access.

**14. When we combined two of our favorites, youth engagement and public schools.** Our Safe and Supportive Schools team offered our Engaging Young People in Student-Led Campaigns webinar to 15 large school districts, developed a three-part professional development series on student-led campaigns, and has plans to replicate — all with the goal of building sexual health activists from within public schools.

**15. When we brought together young LGBTQ Muslims from around the world.** In April of 2020, Advocates held the Muslim Youth Leadership Council conference, which convened over 50 young Muslims from around the world for unique training and community building. Participants worked from a toolkit designed for the event to mobilize around organizing goals each day and developed strategic plans to redress Islamophobia and homophobia for their work going forward.

**16. When we worked with young parents to develop a toolkit to help fight stigma and discrimination.** Advocates convened a group of young parents, both seasoned organizers and those new to the space, and worked together to adapt the Youth Activist Toolkit for young parent organizers. The toolkit contains critical information for building accessible organizing spaces for young families, as well as case studies of young parents who have organized for change in communities across the United States. We will continue to train and support these young parents, using the toolkit, to develop sustainable opportunities for themselves and other young parents in their communities.

**17. When we provided training for over 800 sex educators in just three days.** The AMAZE animated sex ed project thrived in 2020, expanding its work at a moment when folks need free, entertaining and educational resources. One of our greatest moments was the AMAZE-ing Educator Conference, a three-day event with resources on remote education, using AMAZE videos, and incorporating social justice into sex education work.

**18. When lockdown became an opportunity for education and activism.** In April, nearly every state in the nation was under quarantine restrictions. Advocates quickly pivoted to online education, offering webinars and workshops for young people, educators, and parents on sex ed basics, HIV prevention and stigma reduction, having "the talk," abortion access, and more.

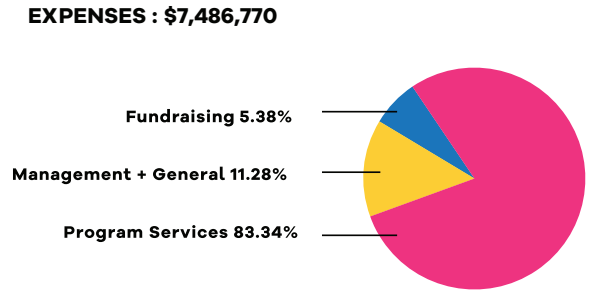
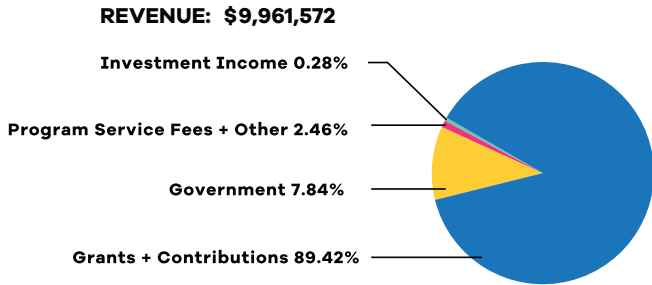
**19. When we brought our famous Youth Activist institute to Zoom.** In September, Advocates hosted an immersive virtual conference where staff met virtually with each cohort of young leaders to bond and create work plans for the school year. The groups expanded their support networks virtually, honed their advocacy, mobilization and leadership skills, learned from staff and each other, and planned individual and group advocacy campaigns for the coming year.

**20. When we didn't let Congress use the pandemic as an excuse to ignore young people.** Each year, over 300 of Advocates youth activists visit their legislators and demand their rights be recognized. This year was no different as Advocates for Youth quickly pivoted to call-in days and video lobby sessions at the Youth Activist Institute, during the Supreme Court confirmation process, and more. In addition, youth activists made hundreds of calls to support progressive bills and oppose Amy Coney Barrett.

# OUR FINANCIALS

**DONATE**  
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**In FY2020, Advocates' expenses totaled \$7,486,770. Revenue totaled \$9,961,572 and included multi-year grants awarded in previous fiscal years and in FY2020 for use in FY2020 and beyond.**



**NET ASSETS BEGINNING OF FISCAL YEAR: \$3,611,994    NET ASSETS END OF FISCAL YEAR: \$6,086,796**

NOTE: The financial data have been summarized from the financial records of Advocates for Youth. A complete copy of the audit and/or Form 990 for the year ended March 31, 2020, prepared by Advocates' independent public accountant, is available upon request.