

# SEPA MUJER



2022

# ANNUAL REPORT





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## Letter from the Executive Director & Board Chair



Dear Friend,

We would like to take a moment to reflect on what incredible year for SEPA Mujer was in 2022! We are grateful of our neighbors, friends, allies and supporters through out the year.

We recently were able to celebrate together with almost 400 friends and supporters at our gala. It was so wonderful to see our partners, sponsors, and friends in person and thank them for supporting our work through the challenging times we all faced during the COVID-19 shutdown. The support everyone showed us made it possible for SEPA Mujer to still provide the same level and quality of services and programs to those who needed it. As this year comes to a close, we can't help but feel the excitement starting to build for 2023. It marks the 30th anniversary of SEPA Mujer; a humbling milestone that will bring upon a great deal of reflection on the past but also a celebration for the future.

We are pleased to share with you our fiscal year 2022 Annual Report, which contains quick snapshots of SEPA Mujer's social justice efforts and the impact of our programs'. In 2022 we saw the catastrophic effects of COVID in our community, but especially on our immigrant community. Our clients often lack housing, have a need for support services, have limited legal representation, and limited financial support from their families. In response, we continue advocating and fighting for social and economic justice for them. Our mission is always to embrace our community with love and empathy to move forward while simultaneously providing the tools to improve to move forward.

Thank you for believing in us and we look forward to work for a better Long Island with you over the next year and the next 30 years.

Martha Maffei

Johanna Rotta-Genna

### OUR MISSION:

*SEPA Mujer, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that has been working to support immigrant women on Long Island since 1993. SEPA Mujer stands for the well-being and success of Latina immigrant women on Long Island. Through our work, we strive to nurture and improve civic engagement by way of leadership skills and legal representation.*

# FINANCIALS

## FY 2022

### Private Grants:

Long Island Community Foundation  
 NY Community Trust  
 New York Immigration Coalition  
 CDC Foundation  
 Hispanic Federation  
 NYS Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
 Unbound Philanthropy  
 Jessie Smith Noyes Foundations  
 Scherman Foundation  
 Unitarian Universalist of Shelter Rock  
 Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Fork

### Government Grants:

Suffolk County Department of Social Service  
 OVW (Office of Violence Against Woman)  
 OVC (Office of Victims of Crime)  
 NYS Department of Criminal Justice  
 OVS (NYS Office of Victim Services)  
 NYS- Department of Labor  
 Town of Brookhaven  
 Town of Southampton  
 NYS-Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence  
 Emergency Food Shelter

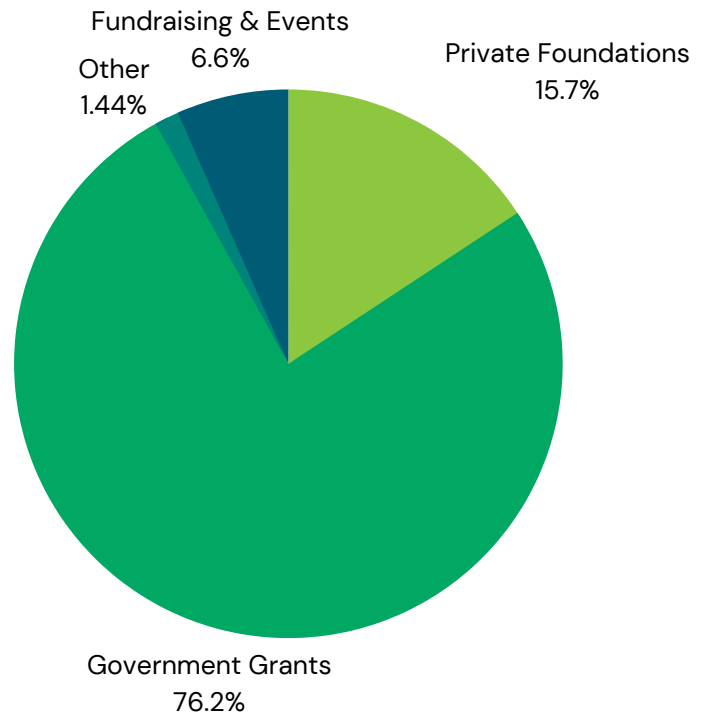
### Corporate Grants:

MT BANK  
 Vanessa Gonzalez Realty Connect

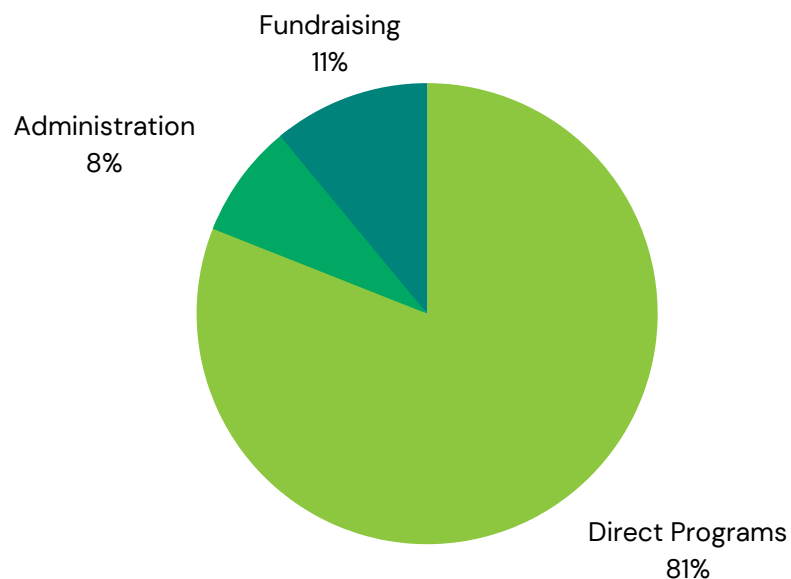
### To all our individual donors:

Thank you for your support and the Impact you've made!

### R E V E N U E



### E X P E N S E S



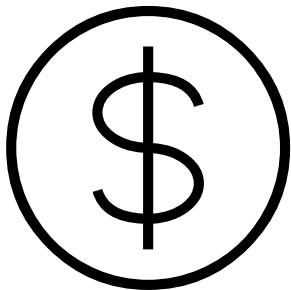


# COVID-19 AND FINANCIAL RELIEF EFFORTS



## 48,500+ INDIVIDUALS REACHED

The Vaccine Saves Lives initiative helped over **165** families receive the flu and/or covid19 vaccines at their local pharmacies. Indirect and direct means of outreach reached over 48,500+ individuals with vaccine information. Over **3,800+ COVID19 protection supplies** such as masks, COVID-19 self tests, and hand sanitizers were also distributed.



## \$334,400 DISTRIBUTED

The cash assistance program allotted over families with emergency financial support to access healthy supermarket foods and hygienic supplies.



## \$200,000 (Est.) DISTRIBUTED

The emergency rental assistance program (ERAP) helped many families in the Town of Brookhaven with emergency rental assistance financial support.

# Social Justice Campaigns

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused long lasting effects on our immigrant community. Our community members were at either two extremes: working at the forefront of the pandemic or unemployed and ineligible for unemployment insurance all while being affected by COVID-19. SEPA Mujer recognized the importance to advocated on behalf of our community members and their families.

## 7 Campaigns

1. Excluded No More.
2. Coverage for All.
3. Welcoming NY.
4. Language Access.
5. Pathway to Citizenship.
6. Redistricting.
7. Good Neighbor Initiative.



## 10 Lobby Visits

Lobby Visits for *New York for All*, *Excluded Workers Fund*, and *Coverage for All* in Albany were essential to creating an equitable living for all New Yorkers.



## 6 Financial Literacy Workshops

**15 community members** gained financial literacy knowledge this year.

## 6 Rallies Across Riverhead to Albany

Community members and organizations united their voices to be heard by the social and political in our communities.



# COMMUNITY PROJECTS



## 149 BACKPACKS DISTRIBUTED

Thank you M&T Bank (Riverhead Location) for your donations!



## 420 MEALS DISTRIBUTED

Thank you to Branches of LI for your food donations!



## 300+ KIDS RECEIVED TOYS

Thank you to the John Theissen Children's Foundation, Holistic Dental Wellness and NYS Assemblyman Jarett Gandolfo for donating toys this Christmas!

# COMMUNITY PROJECTS



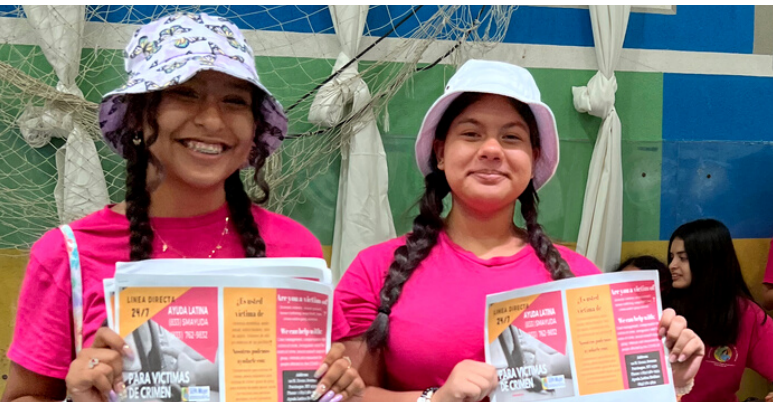
## FIRST CITIZENSHIP CLINIC

**10 individuals** helped in 1 day during citizenship clinic & 1 getting sworn in this year.



## 65 YOUTH ENGAGED

Our first Girls A.C.T. soccer tournament!



## 6,000 FLYERS DISTRIBUTED

Outreach volunteer and staff reached many individuals across **30 towns** of Long Island!



# GIRLS A.C.T.

The Girls A.C.T. (Activists. Creating. Transforming.) program has committed to creating a safe space for growth, mentoring, and leadership development for Suffolk County's Latina youth ages 14-20 years. This year our summer leadership program and bi-monthly chapter meetings provided a warm, constructive, and encouraging space where **24 Latina youth** were mentored and celebrated for their creativity, leadership, and their growing interest in social justice. Participants toured **Suffolk County Community College (Selden & Riverhead Campus), Stony Brook University, and SUNY Old Westbury.**



Girls A.C.T. participants attended a New York Gun Safety Press Conference and met NY Governor Hochul.

## 159 TOTAL MEETING HOURS

Alin Perez of Girls A.C.T. receiving the Rising Star of the Year award with Patchogue Village Trustee Liz Carillo and Legislator Sam Gonzalez.

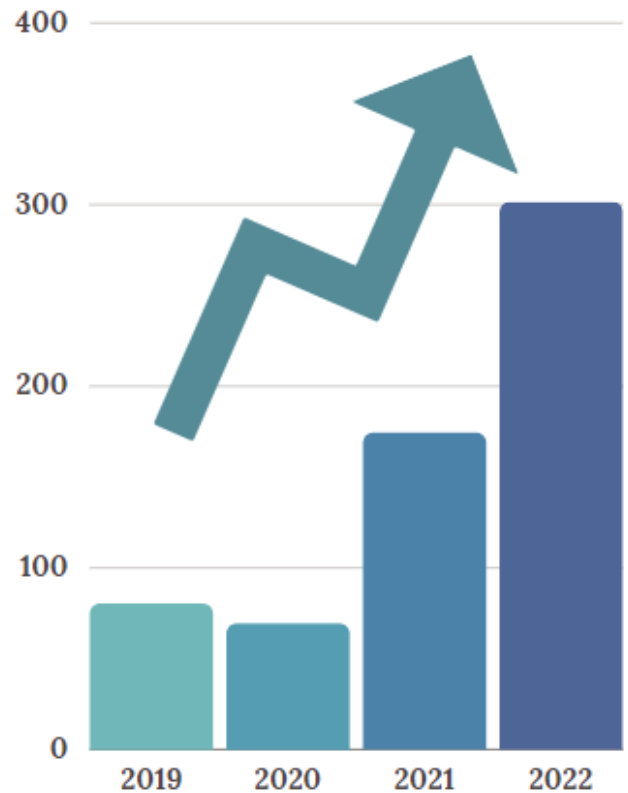


Girls A.C.T really teaches you so much about your ancestors that had immigrated from their country to the United States and they show you the obstacles and struggles your people had to go through just because of the language they spoke, the color of their skin and overall just because of their ethnicity. They also teach you how the real world works when it comes to growing up which was what I really needed because I was scared of growing up. -- Itzell Luna, Girls A.C.T. Summer Leadership Academy Graduate

# Legal Department Impact

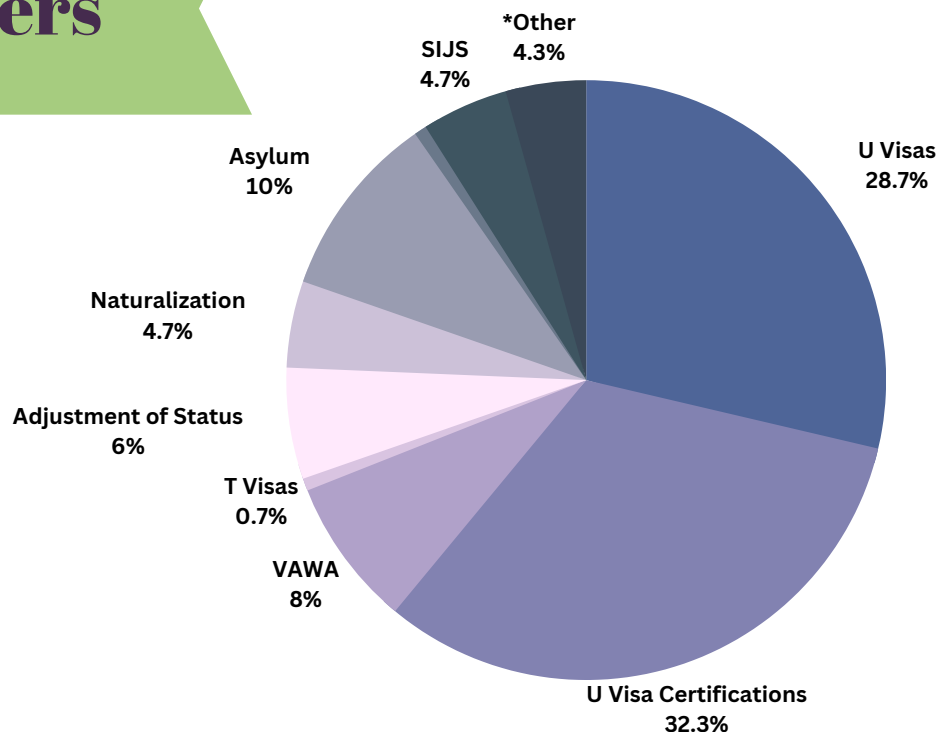
## Caseload Growth

The legal department's impact is demonstrated by a **72% caseload growth** from 2021 to 2022. Acquisition of two immigration-dedicated attorneys sparked a **275% caseload increase** in the past four years! Given the current rate of growth we expect to continue to expand our services and widen our reach.



## Caseload Matters

Geographically, we serve victims/survivors from all of Long Island. Matters served include U Visas Certifications (32.3%), U Visa (28.7%), Asylum (10%), VAWA (8%), Adjustment of Status (6%), Naturalization (4.7%), SIJS (4.7%), and T Visa (0.7%).





# Victim's Assistant Program



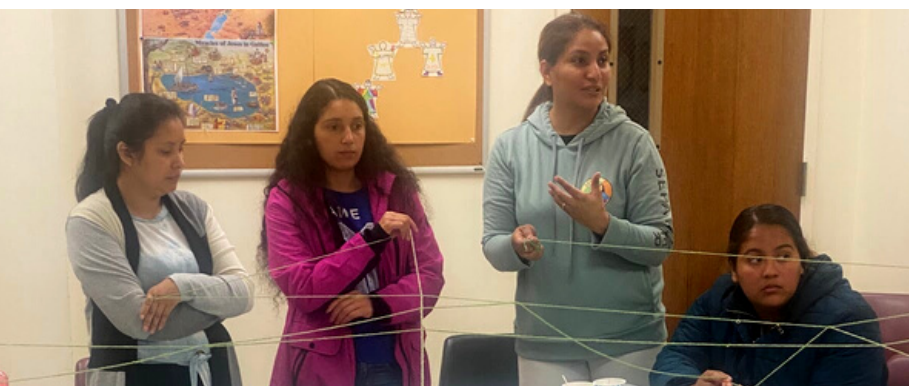
## Domestic Violence Awareness Vigil

**20 attendees** at our vigil at Family Court. Thank you to our partners The Retreat, Brighter Tomorrow's, EAC and Hawkeye!



## Take Back the Night

Thank you to Suffolk County Community College for hosting us!



## 104+ Counseling & Support Groups

Victims of domestic violence and sexual assault received support throughout the year.

# The Next Step: The Freedom Plan

We serve Latina immigrant victims of Human Trafficking on Long Island through educating our community on labor and sex trafficking, how to properly identify victims and refer them to safe culturally adapted services.

**15 trainings with  
the Office of  
Victims of Crime**



**14 volunteers with 140  
hours of human  
trafficking training**



**Over 100 members &  
volunteers trained**





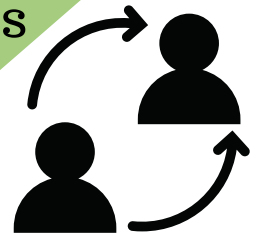
# Hotline Ayuda Latina

1200 calls to  
our hotline



425 people helped  
with case  
management services

**(833) SM-AYUDA**



Our hotline provides services for victims of domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual assault and legal services.

**19 volunteers covers 6,384 hours**



325 mental  
health referrals

165 housing  
referrals

# Thriving Latinas Project

Culturally specific programming that focuses on:

- Building strong communication skills
- Promoting positive emotions and practices
- Cultural empowerment
- Leadership encouragement
- Personal action plan

23  
attendees  
at open  
house



“

The classes have helped me to have a little more confidence and I feel calmer. I am distracted by sharing with other women who have gone through the same thing as me and still do. They don't give up because life goes on and we have to keep fighting. Thanks to your support, your advice and your way of welcoming. Since I've been in the group my way of seeing life has changed for the better. -YZ

”



# Volunteers

Thank  
you!

Jacquelin Canizalez  
Vilma Chavez  
Allison Bonilla  
Ana Archaga  
Victoria Lopez  
Fatima Rodriguez  
Karol  
Aracely  
Matthew  
Natasha Torres  
Merly Fuentes  
Adriana Delgado  
Maria Guzman  
Elisa Irvolino  
Kimberly Zambrano

Allison  
Julie  
Mariela  
Ashley  
Jenny  
Ludmila Molina  
Aide Morales  
Narcy Ortiz  
Juliana Rodriguez  
Ashley Lopez  
Itzell Luna  
Megan  
Nancy Largo  
Stephanie Alfaro  
Indira Murillo  
Elida Alfaro  
Maria Castillo  
Sara Chilligalli  
Estrella Martinez  
Alin Perez  
Yesenia Garcia

Dilcia Erazo  
Marisol Lucero  
Juana Torres  
Stephanie Leon  
Diane  
Joseph  
Mirna Silveira  
Georgina Leon  
Ana C. Hernandez  
Teresa Serrano  
Bertilia Argueta  
Flor Reyes  
Rhina Mejia  
Reina Linarez  
Maria E. Toro  
Delmi Quintanilla  
Jasmin Perez  
Liz Aguilar  
Deisy Amaya  
Mirna Silveira  
Ashley Paz  
Paula Sabando  
Fanny Vera  
Allison (Marisol)

Rosemary Rivera  
Hayde  
Ana Molina  
Analia Quispe  
Betty Alvarado  
Gabriella Ferreira  
Joselin Magana  
Luna Eskarlata  
Luz Estrella  
Marcia Estrada  
Marcia Gachinado  
Maria Argueta  
Maria Caballero  
Mariella Suarez  
Mayra Azusena  
Noemi Sanchez  
Noreli Norena  
Olga Perez  
Sandra Calderon  
Susana Umana  
Yari Deleon  
Mariella Molina  
Pamela Fernandez  
Laura Sofia Castro





# Thank you!



## We're looking forward to working with you in 2023!

Visit our  
website to  
support the  
advancement of  
women

SCAN ME



24/7 Hotline  
(833) SM-AYUDA