
Southside Harm Reduction Services



◆ Annual Report 2020 ◆

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear friends,

2020 was a long year: there was COVID, the murder of George Floyd and the Uprising that followed, eviction after eviction of encampments, a huge spike in overdose deaths, the continuation of the HIV outbreak, and much more. While they are often siloed, these events, movements, and outbreaks are deeply interconnected. In the Twin Cities, people who use drugs and people who are living outside navigate complicated, stigmatized systems that directly impact health outcomes. It is hard to communicate the immensity of the challenges that people are facing, taking into account both the complex and beautiful identities of our participants and the stark health and social disparities they face. It is clear that expanded, better-tailored, new and existing services are needed to support our participants and their communities.

With that being said, communities of all sorts continued to show up despite these challenges, looking to support and embrace positive change. Southside's participants kept looking after their communities, making sure their networks had safer drug use supplies and other essentials. Delivery drivers and outreach volunteers kept showing up. Partner organizations and community groups kept joining us on outreach. Community is central to the health of the people that use our services and to Minnesotans as a whole, and Southside is thankful to be a part of building and sustaining community.

Internally, 2020 was a year of growth. With more than 1.2 million syringes and 20,000 doses of naloxone distributed, we are now the largest syringe exchange in the state. We hired our first staff members and now have more than eight full- and part time-positions. We started to provide rapid HIV testing, offered many naloxone and harm reduction trainings, and continued to improve our ability to link participants to the quality medical and social services they deserve. We also began distributing safer smoking materials at the request of our participants — just one of the many ways participants continue to shape Southside's work. We will continue working within our organization to increase representation of the communities that we work with, and to better recognize and support participants' contributions, contributions that often take place outside of traditional forms of engagement such

as meetings. Valuing and supporting nontraditional engagement helps participant input to meaningfully shape Southside's intentions and practices.

As we look to the future and consider the role we want Southside to play in the community, we sometimes think about ecological recovery: after a wildfire, the first plants to return are grasses, wildflowers, and other similar plants. This first growth stabilizes the soil, preventing nutrients from being washed away. This process makes space for bushes and trees to grow. Those bushes and trees then allow for bigger trees to emerge that eventually flourish as vibrant forests.

Right now, much of the landscape for people who use drugs in Minneapolis is similar to a burned forest. Southside hopes to emulate the grasses and wildflowers that emerge in the wake of a wildfire by being a stable, positive force in the communities we are a part of: an organization that supports the growth of bigger 'trees' such as drug user unions and other groups founded and run by people who use drugs; supportive care for people who use drugs across the health and social service system in Minnesota; overdose prevention spaces; and whatever else is organized or dreamed by people who use drugs.

Jack Martin
Executive Director
June 2021



Cobs, Marissa, and Jack of SSHR



Late December winter outreach

In 2020



Naloxone kit

safer injections across Minnesota.

Southside showed up with community. We continued to meet people where they were at throughout COVID, the Uprising, violent camp evictions, and more. SSHR continues to support folks to distribute supplies to their communities. Everything we do could not be done without our participants. They are so often under-recognized and do the vast majority of the work. Thank you, Southside participants.

We are proud to say that we distributed 1.2 million syringes, with every syringe supporting

This is almost 500,000 more syringes than 2019.

We also doubled the amount of naloxone distributed to about 20,000 doses.

SSHR completed more than 7,500 exchanges with approximately 1,000 different folks.



Kit supplies

Internal/Organizational

Southside deeply believes that community and connections are just as important in Harm Reduction as syringes and other medical aspects. Supporting connections has been a large part of the work that Southside has done in the last year. We've partnered more often and more regularly with other organizations.

In 2020, we were proud to partner with:

- The Native American Community Clinic
- Healthcare for the Homeless
- Food Share
- Community University Health Care Clinic (CUHCC)

- Fellow syringe services
- And more

Partnering with other organizations allows us to provide a broader range of services to our participants.

We believe that everyone's voice is important, and recognize that Southside is really created from a whole community of people. To that end, and to emulate the values of Harm Reduction, we are continuing work to cultivate as flat an organization as possible and have as many of our decisions as possible made collectively through the various working groups. While the working groups consist both of folks getting paid and those who are not, everyone has an equal say in decision-making. By having a flat organization we hope to create a space that is open for anyone to make a meaningful and positive impact on the organization and our community.



Volunteers of SSHR on outreach



Linda, amazing community partner, with supplies

2020 Services

Deliveries

Throughout 2020, we offered deliveries across Minneapolis four nights a week, Monday through Thursday. Southside delivered through snowstorms, through the early (and continued) uncertainty of COVID, through the uprisings (thank you, Jessica!), and to 37 different zip codes.



Delivery supplies

Outreach

We increased our outreach from two days a week in 2019 to 5-7 days a week in 2020. When other organizations closed or restricted services in the early days of the pandemic, we collectively decided to increase our outreach, ensuring that our participants maintained access to naloxone, syringes, and other resources.

- **Pop Ups**

- Southside hosts pop-ups where we partner with other organizations and stay at one high-traffic spot. Through pop-ups, Southside and partner organizations were able to provide food, vaccinations, medical care, clothes, tents, and much more



Street outreach via bicycle!

- **Street Outreach**

- Through street outreach we want to connect with folks that aren't able to access our deliveries, and to foster long term relationships with participants. Through 2020 we moved with participants as folks were evicted and forced to move from campsite to campsite across the city.

Street Clean-up

We continued to collect syringes in the neighborhood and have been able to connect with housed and unhoused neighbors while doing it. Though most participants, if not all, want to properly dispose of syringes, it is not always possible due to lack of access to disposal resources, and to police targeting of people who use drugs. Picking up syringe litter has been a great way to connect with the participants who help out, as well as with other folks in the neighborhood.



Winter street clean up

Trainings



Southside started to hold community narcarn trainings every other week. Follow our Instagram [@southsideharmreduction](https://www.instagram.com/southsideharmreduction) to find out where our next one is! Southside also provided stigma education and training for neighborhood groups, community members, and partner organizations.

We were also able to present at conferences held by MATEC, AIDS United, and White Earth Nation.

Drop in Naloxone training

HIV Testing

In 2020 Southside started HIV testing! There is currently an outbreak of HIV among people who use drugs and are living outside and now Southside is able to offer rapid HIV testing and linkage to care across Minneapolis. Starting our program at the end of the year, Southside was able to offer 37 rapid tests over 2 months of testing, setting ourselves up to offer many more in 2021.

Southside strengthened our partnerships in 2020 and are able to have health and social services available during outreach and deliveries. This includes a mobile vaccination partnership with Healthcare for the Homeless and the Native American Community Clinic. Starting with Hep A and Flu vaccinations, the program was easily able to switch to COVID vaccinations in 2021.



Rapid HIV testing kit and supplies

[Learn more facts about HIV in this online zine created by SSHR employees and volunteers.](#)

COMMUNITY SURVEY ON SAFETY AND DRUG USE IN E. PHILLIPS

Partnership with Humphrey School of Public Affairs

The Humphrey School of Public Affairs partnered with Southside to discuss drug use and safety in East Phillips after the uprising. Some key findings include 67% of respondents support a safe use space (aka overdose prevention site) and 75% support syringe exchange. [See here for more info.](#)



Cobs and Emily of SSHR



Marissa and Jack of SSHR



Volunteers at pop-up outreach



SSHR office and supplies



Tents and supplies for street outreach



SSHR volunteer on street outreach

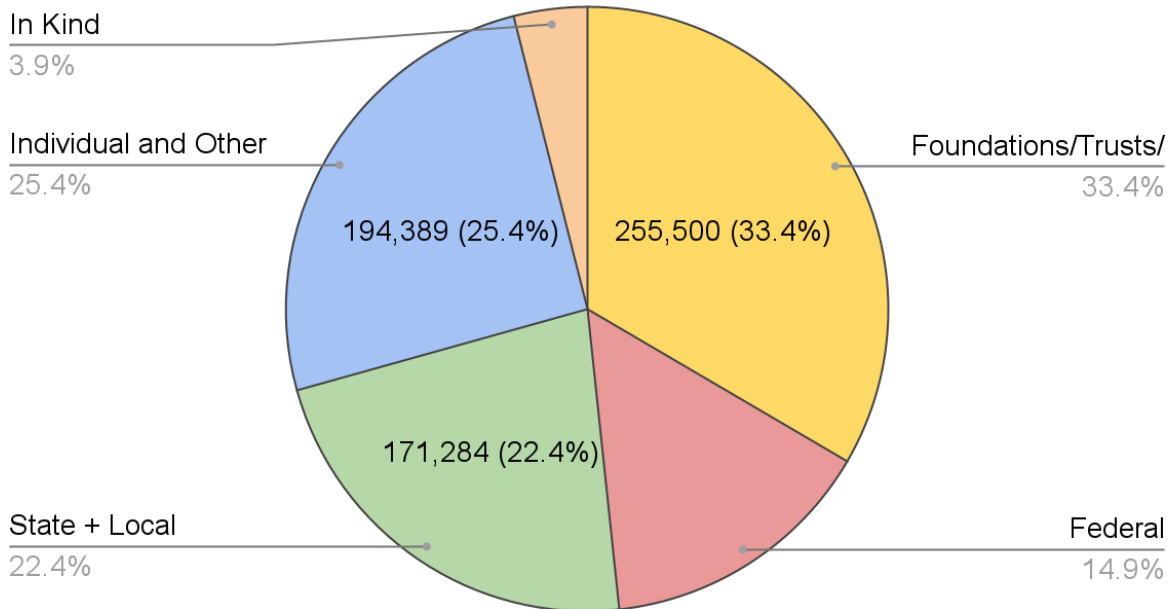
2020 Expenses

Income

- Grants and contracts - \$438,145
 - Foundations/Trusts/Nonprofits- \$255,500
 - Federal - \$113,601
 - State + Local Gov - \$171,284
- Individual and other donations - \$194,389
- In kind - \$30,000
-

*\$175,000 is grants that are to be spent in 2021 but the money was received in 2020

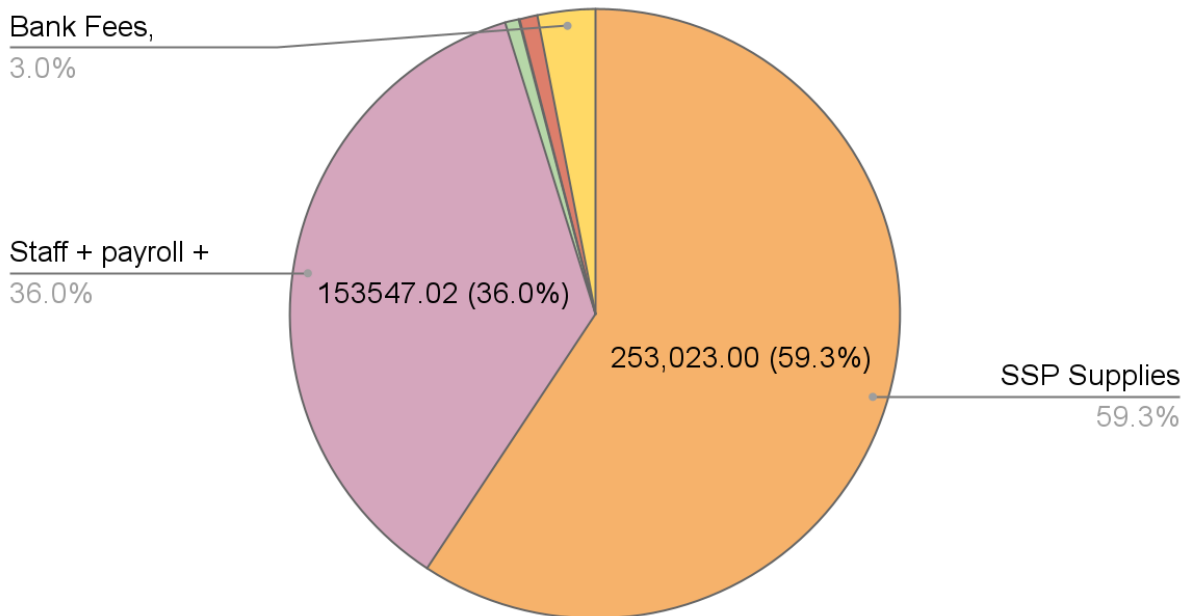
2020 Income



Expenses

- SSP Supplies (syringes, food, smoking supplies, camping equipment, naloxone) - \$253,023
 - Food for participants - \$9,444.46
 - Camping Equipment - \$339
 - Naloxone kits - \$56,819
 - Safer Smoking Supplies - \$19,398.89
 - Syringes and safer injection supplies - \$138,412.56
 - Other Supplies + HIV tests (PPE, outreach carts, grabbers, etc) - \$28,608.81
- Staff + payroll + contractors - \$139,438.97 + \$14,108.05
- Board - \$150
- Sustainer gifts + fundraising + volunteer gifts - \$3,175.93
- Office Supplies + Software - \$4,173.36
- Bank Fees, insurance, phone, postage, taxes and licenses, lab costs, other - \$12,905.77

2020 Expenses



❖ Thank You ❖

Our volunteers and staff are our heart and soul. Thank you to:

- Aiden
- Aims
- Alison
- Anne
- Bobbi
- Clara
- Cobs
- Colette
- Dave
- Emi
- Emily
- Gracie HC
- Gracie L
- Hunter
- Jac
- Jack L
- Jack M
- Jada
- James
- Jase
- Jenny
- Jess
- Kari
- Katie
- Kevin
- Kor
- Kristi
- Leah
- Lee
- Leo
- Linda
- Luce
- Marissa
- Mark
- Micheal
- Mitchell
- Mo
- Nick H
- Nick P
- Nikki
- PJ
- Rahela
- Reishi
- Rick
- Rosemary
- Rox
- Ryan
- Sarah Jane
- Sarah M
- Saudade
- Sean
- Seneca
- Tasia
- Tina
- Tommy
- Vivi
- Zev
- And many more<3



Thank you to our community partners and funders:

- AIDS United
- Bush Foundation
- City of Minneapolis
- Comer Foundation
- Community University Health Care Center
- MN Department of Health and Human Services
- Food Share
- Headwaters Foundation
- Healthcare for the Homeless
- Minnesota Department of Health
- Minneapolis Health Department
- Native American Community Clinic
- Otto Bremer
- Reclaim the Block
- Seward Co-op
- Still Ain't Satisfied



NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY CLINIC
HONORING HEALTH AND TRADITION



Thank you to you for supporting people who use drugs, however you can. Everything from carrying naran, to donating, to reducing stigma, goes so far, especially when we all do something.

What we do can not be done without individual donors! More than 90% of donations go directly to purchasing syringes, safer smoking, and other supplies that get to people that need them. [Much of our official funding is restricted so we rely on donations to purchase a large portion of our syringes.](#)

In memory of Southside board member Tshishwaka and all of our loved ones lost to the war on drugs.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED!

CONTACT

Phone

Delivery 612-615-9725

Office 612-355-1287

Email

shrs@southsideharmreduction.org

Facebook

Southside Harm Reduction Services

Instagram

@southsideharmreduction

DONATE

One time donations and recurring donations can be made on our website at <https://southsideharmreduction.org/donate/>

Venmo Donations

@SouthsideHarmReduction

PayPal Donations

Southside Harm Reduction Services



Thank You

