ASIAN ASSOCIATION *of* UTAH



ASIAN ASSOCIATION *of* UTAH IMPACT REPORT FY2025

Investing Today
Thriving Tomorrow

ASIAN ASSOCIATION OF UTAH

REFUGEE SERVICES

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

HUMAN TRAFFICKING SUPPORT

INTERPRETING *and* TRANSLATION

UTAH ASIAN FESTIVAL

www.aau-slc.org

ASIAN ASSOCIATION *of* UTAH

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HISTORY

Almost 50 years ago, the Asian community in Salt Lake City answered a request from the Governor of Utah to assist in resettling Vietnamese refugees who remained at Camp Pendleton following the end of the Vietnam War. Since then, the Asian Association of Utah (AAU) has assisted tens of thousands of refugees, refugee youth, and human trafficking survivors from over 100 countries.

AAU has stood as Utah's cornerstone organization bridging cultures, transforming lives, and building pathways to self-sufficiency. Our three program pillars, Human Trafficking Support, Refugee Services, and Behavioral Health, stand together to serve a growing population of people. As Utah's largest human trafficking victim service provider and a vital force in refugee resettlement and support, our impact reaches across 24 of Utah's 29 counties through a network of 32 collaborative partners.

MISSION

Our community is a unique intersection of two groups: Asian Americans in Utah, representing our heritage community, and marginalized refugees, refugee youth, and human trafficking victims, representing the community we serve.

We engage, equip, and empower victims of human trafficking, refugees, and refugee youth to improve, become self-sufficient, and thrive. Our work is trauma-informed and linguistically sensitive, delivered by specialized staff who journey with each individual and family.

Message from the Executive Director

Partners, friends, and team members:

This past year has brought its fair share of change, challenges, opportunities, and growth for the Asian Association of Utah (AAU). While we know time isn't speeding up, it sure feels like it is.

If you are just now learning about AAU, you may be surprised to learn that our self-sufficiency work impacts thousands of individuals each year with a very low percentage of those we serve being Asian. Our name reflects the strong heritage of the Asian community in Salt Lake City coming together in 1977 to assist primarily Asian refugees from the Vietnam War. This care and compassion has expanded and grown to shape what the Asian Association of Utah is today.

We are grateful that, across our three primary pillars (Refugee Services, Behavioral Health, and Human Trafficking Survivor Support), additional financial partnerships from individuals, foundations, public entities, and corporations have allowed us to continue to improve and expand our services and help more people.

Some of the highlights which we share in this Report include:

- We renovated and opened a dedicated Human Trafficking Survivor Support Center at our old main office site in the Ballpark District of Salt Lake City to expand services to the increasing number of human trafficking victim referrals we receive (p.30).
- With guidance from our dedicated youth mentors, over 100 high school refugee and immigrant youth received WorkReady Futures assistance with resumes, finding jobs, and enrolling in college (p.18).
- Refugee and immigrant youth in our Afterschool programs saw an increase in social-emotional learning and improved grades (p.16-17).
- Barriers were reduced in our Behavioral Health clinic to serve over 290 new trauma-impacted refugees and human trafficking victims this past year (p.25).

The danger in developing a report like this is an overemphasis on numbers. These reports can become organizational bragging sessions. "Look at us." "Look what we've done." That is not our desire. **We developed this report to be accountable, to inform, to educate, and ultimately celebrate the amazing progress these human beings have made toward recovery, self-sufficiency, and impact in our shared community.**

Looking forward, we have so many opportunities to engage, equip, and empower these refugees, refugee youth, and victims of human trafficking to improve, become self-sufficient, and thrive. What an amazing opportunity to serve. What an amazing opportunity to partner with us.

To another year of impact!

Scott Cougill

Scott Cougill, MBA
Executive Director



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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General Counsel



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Arlene Dzurnak



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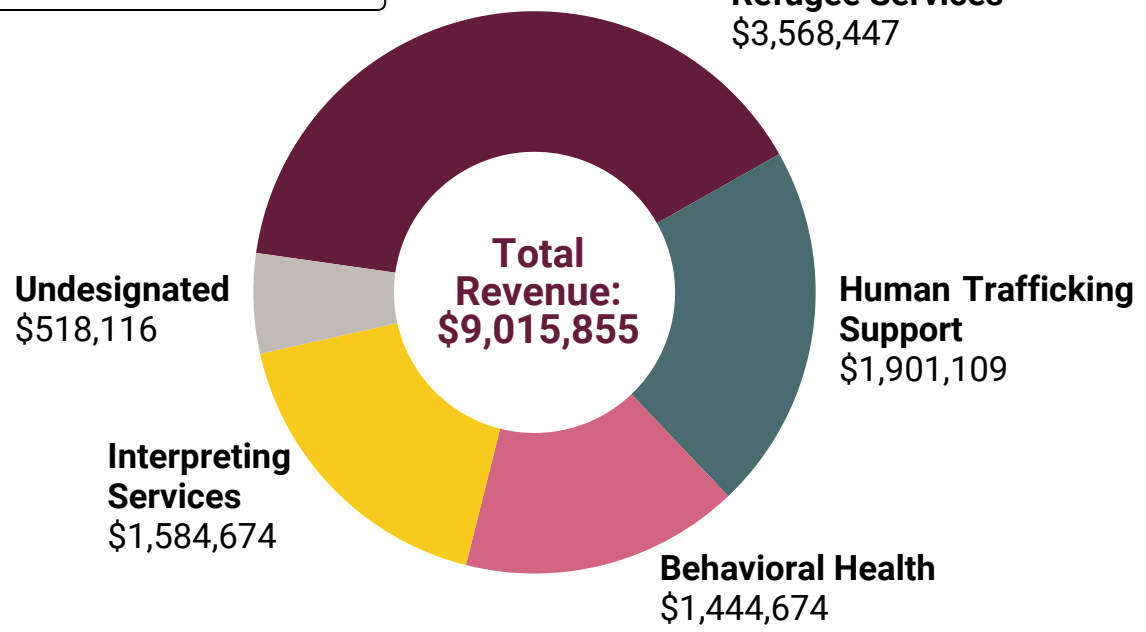
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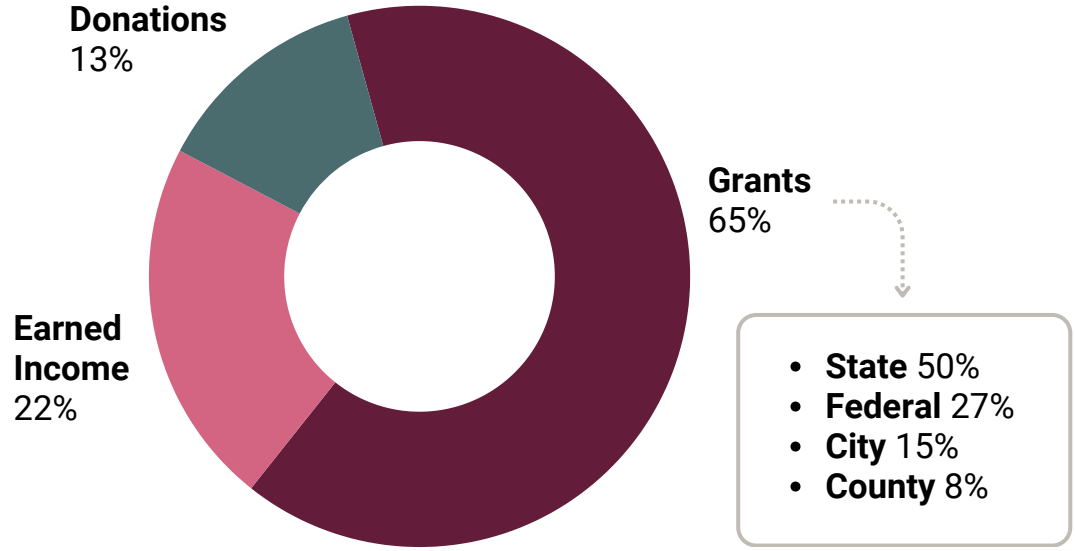
James Sroykum

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

FY25 Funding by Programs



FY25 Funding Sources



In 2025, the Asian Association of Utah received the highest rating of Platinum Transparency Seal with Candid (formerly GuideStar) and 4-star 100% rating with Charity Navigator. AAU is committed to clarity, trust and accountability to our supporters.

OUR IMPACT

Refugee Services

175
Refugees Resettled

$697K
Total Rental Assistance

100+
Refugee Youth
matched with mentors

180
Refugee Youth Served
in 7 afterschool programs

145
Parents Graduated
from STEP parenting classes

223
Adults Taught
in English Language Learning

Behavioral Health

430+
Clients Served

3,965
Therapy Sessions

620+
Sessions
of case management

330+
Appointments
for medication management

250
People Trained
in Mental Health First Aid

2,400+
Hours of Interpretation

Human Trafficking Support

1400
Survivors Served

$476K
Total Rental Assistance

1,995
Client Visits
to Drop-In Center

732
New Client Referrals
to case management

1,498
People Trained
in human trafficking prevention

1,729+
Community Members
reached through 30 events

Interpreting & Translation

35
Different Languages
with 90+ interpreters

16,111
Clients Served

50,000+
Hours of Interpretation

REFUGEE SERVICES

12 Refugee Resettlement

14 Housing

16 Afterschool Programming

18 Youth Mentoring

19 Adult English Language Learning

20 Systematic Training for Effective Parenting









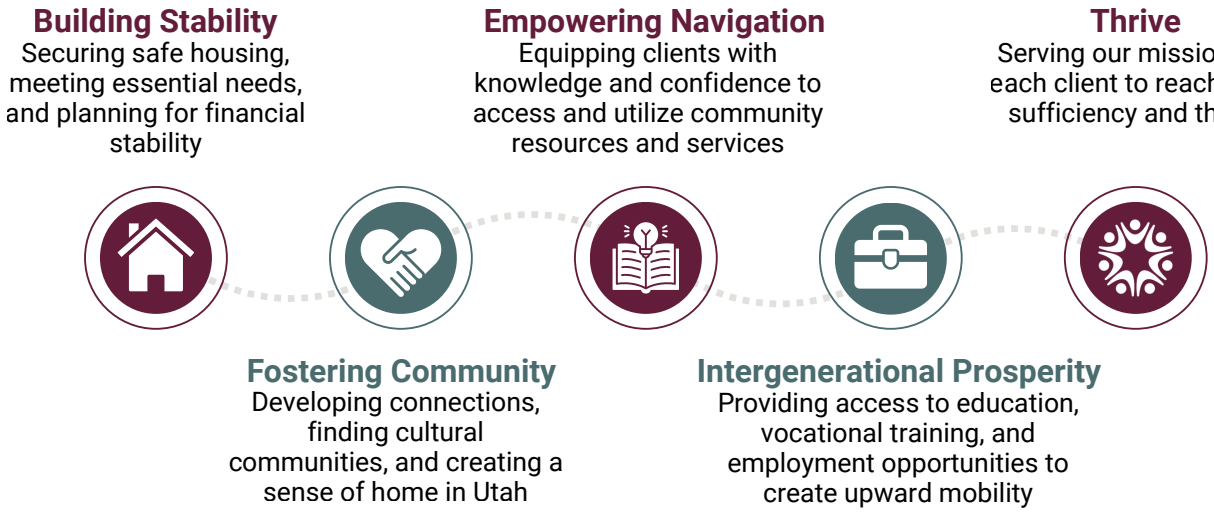




REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

Over three million displaced people have relocated to the United States since AAU was founded in 1977. Today, U.S. efforts to resettle refugees fulfill an important humanitarian mission while also providing significant economic benefits to the country. **AAU has played a critical role and has resettled over 10,000 refugees from over 100 countries in Utah.**

AAU delivers trauma-informed case management tailored to each refugee family's cultural and linguistic needs. After intake assessments, assigned case managers build relationships and connect clients to essential services including English classes, employment counseling, legal assistance, housing support, and behavioral health resources.



This past year, Utah welcomed over 700 refugees who received direct assistance from resettlement organizations. AAU partnering with the Utah Refugee Services Office, **directly assisted 69 cases encompassing 175 individuals.**

From Uncertainty to Self-Sufficiency: An Afghan Family's Journey

When an Afghan Special Immigrant Visa holder arrived in Utah in July 2024 with his wife and six children, all under eighteen, their path to stability seemed uncertain. After completing the Voluntary Refugee and Placement (VR&P) program, the family enrolled in AAU's case management program, where they faced a critical challenge: the father's part-time position at Amazon wasn't enough to sustain their household of eight, and rental assistance had reached its limit.

The family's initial barrier was lack of childcare, the mother believed she couldn't work because someone needed to care for the children. Through persistent support from their AAU case manager and collaboration with an employment counselor at the Department of Workforce Services, the family began to see new possibilities.

Today, this family embodies resilience and determination. The father works two jobs, at a thrift store during the day and driving for Lyft in the evenings. The mother found creative employment at a daycare that allows her to bring her two youngest children with her, eliminating childcare costs while contributing to the family income. All school-age children are enrolled and thriving academically with support from our Youth Mentoring team. The older children have become fluent in English and they now interpret for their parents. The family can now pay their bills independently and is on the waitlist for a low-income housing program.

When asked if the children would need an interpreter for extracurricular activities like our ski program, the father confidently responded that it wouldn't be necessary. His older children now speak English fluently, demonstrating the family's remarkable adaptation to life in Utah.





HOUSING

AAU's Housing team works with individuals and families to assess, plan, and provide meaningful housing interventions that assist clients in reaching self-sufficiency. Our team works with local city, county, and state partners to provide available assistance.

Our housing staff leverages the Arizona Self-Sufficiency Matrix to identify and address each client's unique needs, offering holistic support across multiple life domains. Key outcomes include: all households remained housed, **85% of households reported improved job security demonstrating economic resilience, and increased community integration for both refugees and long-term residents.** The team has fostered strategic partnerships with housing providers, refugee agencies, and workforce programs to ensure continued success and strengthen our case management and landlord engagement for long-term housing stability.

In the past year, we provided critical support to 273 unique households through comprehensive services and $697,142 in assistance. AAU was able to increase funding by 88% to meet the increasing demand for housing support.

> **Having a safe place to stay and a steady job, with guidance along the way, has given me hope and the ability to plan for my future.**
>
> Refugee Housing Client

273
Households Served

$697K
Total Assistance Provided

1,112
Individuals Supported

$2,553
Average Assistance per Household

85%
Reported Improved Job Security

100%
Households Remained Housed

From Homelessness to Stability: Rebuilding After Detention

This client came to AAU while experiencing homelessness after being released from immigration detention. For a period, he lived under a bridge, facing extreme challenges in accessing food, safety, and basic necessities. The trauma of detention, combined with the instability of homelessness, created significant barriers to rebuilding his life and achieving independence.

Through AAU, he received behavioral health support, including therapy sessions with a licensed therapist. These services helped him process trauma, address mental health concerns, and regain hope for the future. He reported that consistent emotional support and guidance were crucial in helping him begin to envision a path toward stability.

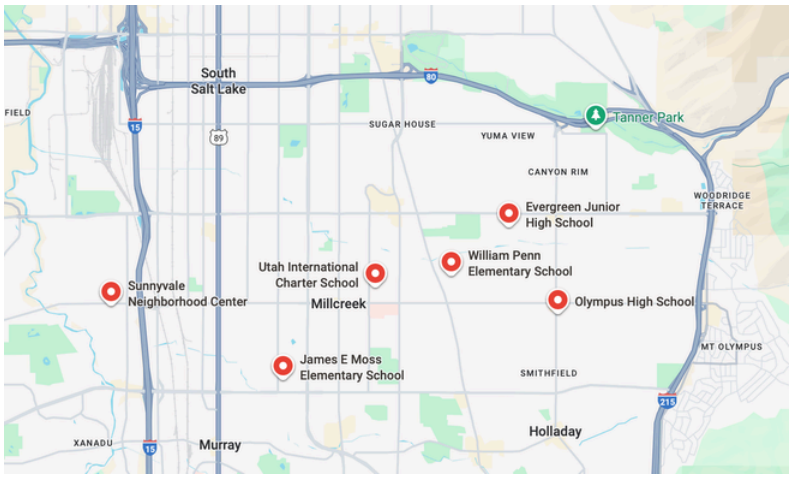
AAU provided housing support along with comprehensive case management and additional resources to help him achieve long-term stability. The housing team assisted him in obtaining employment, creating a reliable source of income and an opportunity to regain independence. Recognizing that stable housing was essential for maintaining employment and supporting mental health, AAU's housing program covered the security deposit and first month's rent for a studio apartment. This immediate support removed critical barriers and created a safe environment where he could focus on rebuilding his life.

Comprehensive case management included assistance with budgeting, access to community resources, and ongoing support to maintain employment and housing. These services provided both immediate relief and the tools necessary to sustain long-term progress.

Since August 2025, he has maintained stable employment and housing. He shared, **"Having a safe place to stay and a steady job, with guidance along the way, has given me hope and the ability to plan for my future."** His journey demonstrates the tangible impact of coordinated holistic support in helping vulnerable individuals transition from homelessness to stability and self-sufficiency.

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM

AAU has been administering prevention-based afterschool programs for refugee and immigrant youth for over 12 years and has seen positive outcomes associated from consistent attendance in the program. Data collected from the previous program year shows that AAU provided over 2,000 hours of direct programming to 180 youth. **Demand for AAU afterschool programming is continuing to increase. In the last year alone, our program has grown to seven programs across six sites and enrollment has increased over 30%.**



Afterschool Program Sites

180
Refugee Youth Served

2000+
Hours of Programming

30%
Increase in Enrollment

AAU is uniquely positioned to meet the growing demand for services because of a partnership with Granite School District. Granite School District contributes insight into student demographics, school culture, and community needs, while AAU provides expertise in cultural and linguistic support for refugee and immigrant families. Through this collaboration, AAU's program has proven effective in meeting the academic, social, and emotional needs of refugee and immigrant youth, helping them succeed both in and out of the classroom.

In addition, our **behavioral health therapists are available to provide onsite services weekly at many of our afterschool locations, ensuring students have immediate access to culturally responsive mental health support in a trusted environment**.

These services address issues such as trauma, anxiety, depression, and adjustment challenges that many refugee and immigrant youth experience. By embedding therapists directly into the program, students receive care in a setting that feels safe and familiar, reducing barriers to seeking help.

Programming at each site is designed to meet the specific needs and strengths of the youth it serves. Overall, participants can receive:

- A nutritious meal
- Opportunities to develop healthy peer support networks that provide alternatives to gangs, crime, and antisocial behavior
- Academic assistance, often consisting of individualized homework help
- Prevention/enrichment activities

In addition to our daily programming, AAU Afterschool partners with various organizations to **provide youth with enrichment opportunities designed to enhance students' academic, artistic, and/or social foundations.**

For example, one of our primary partners is Youthlinc who helps our youth understand and work through the practical aspects of life like getting a job, saving money, or preparing for college. In addition, our youth participate in STEM-focused experiences such as hands-on science learning at Little Beakers.







YOUTH MENTORING PROGRAM

Our Youth Mentoring Program connects refugee and immigrant youth with dedicated professional mentors who work alongside them to create personalized service plans. These plans are designed to boost self-esteem, enhance academic performance, and strengthen connections with family and community.

In 2024, over 100 youth partnered with AAU's dedicated mentors to develop personalized service plans focused on enhancing self-esteem, academic performance, and family connections. Each mentor carefully collaborated with their mentee to identify and engage in positive, constructive activities such as afterschool programs, sports teams, and extracurricular opportunities.

AAU's Youth Mentorship Program pairs full-time, experienced mentors with lived experience with adolescent students for an average of 3–4 month periods to help them address specific needs and achieve personal goals.

Unlike volunteer-based models, our program hires professional mentors who provide practical, hands-on support with college preparation, career planning, family dynamics and problem-solving — something we call WorkReady Futures.

Our diverse team of five mentors, 80% of whom come from refugee and immigrant backgrounds, bring valuable cultural and linguistic skills and serve as relatable role models for the youth we support. This culturally responsive approach fills a critical gap for refugee and immigrant youth, many of whom are the first English speakers in their families and must navigate unfamiliar systems without parental guidance.

Through consistent, professional mentorship, AAU empowers youth to gain confidence, overcome challenges, and pursue their academic and career goals with success.






ADULT ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING

Our English Language Learning (ELL) program increases the English proficiency of our students, empowering them to become active, integrated members of the community. We offer three classes five days a week with a small teacher-to-student ratio to enhance interaction and support improved outcomes. In addition to literacy, we integrate civics, financial literacy and other essential life skills to the classes, ensuring students gain practical knowledge for navigating life in Utah.

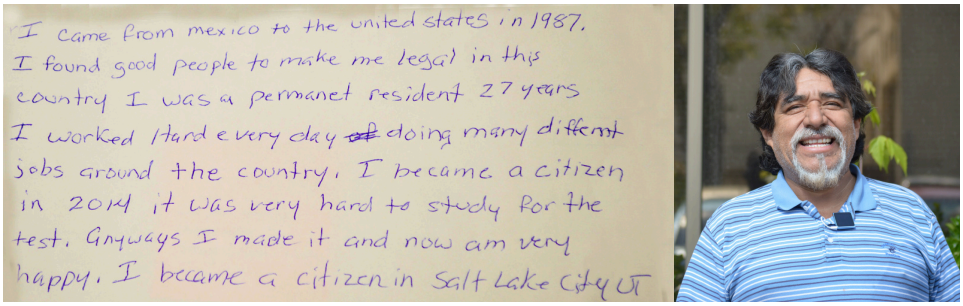
Of the students who completed post-testing, **59% demonstrated measurable skill gains in English proficiency.** Among the students who left our program, **20% exited to pursue employment or further education opportunities,** a testament to the program's effectiveness in preparing students for the next step in their journey.

223

Students Served

27,516

Instructional Hours


I came from mexico to the united states in 1987.
I found good people to make me legal in this
country I was a permanet resident 27 years
I worked Hard every day ~~of~~ doing many ~~differnt~~
jobs around the country. I became a citizen
in 2014 it was very hard to study for the
test. Anyways I made it and now am very
happy. I became a citizen in Salt Lake City UT

Miguel, ELL student and his handwritten note



Radik, ELL Student & Architect

> Despite holding multiple degrees and years of experience in architecture and design from his home country, Radik had to abandon his career upon arriving in the United States due to unrecognized credentials and language barriers. Through our program, he built the language proficiency needed to navigate the U.S. system and earned a scholarship to Salt Lake Community College to complete required coursework. His dedication has opened doors to new opportunities; he recently interviewed for a design position with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and has a promising career prospect.

SYSTEMATIC TRAINING FOR EFFECTIVE PARENTING

Our Systematic Training for Effective Parenting (STEP) program teaches modern child-rearing techniques to refugee communities in an individually tailored, culturally sensitive, and success-oriented setting. Parents learn to foster stronger relationships with their children through effective communication strategies that bridge generational and language barriers. **Classes are offered in multiple languages including Swahili, Afghan Dari, Arabic, Dinka, Spanish, Somali, and Kinyarwanda, ensuring accessibility for Utah's diverse refugee populations.** The program's three primary goals are to prevent child abuse, prevent substance use, and strengthen family attachment, all measured through comprehensive pre- and post-survey.

This past year marked **a milestone achievement with 145 parents who graduated from the program, our highest enrollment since launching STEP in 2019.** Participants demonstrated an average 30% increase in pre- to post-survey scores, reflecting significant growth in their knowledge and understanding of healthy parenting practices. Instructor feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with participants praising their compassion and teaching approach.

Participant Survey Results

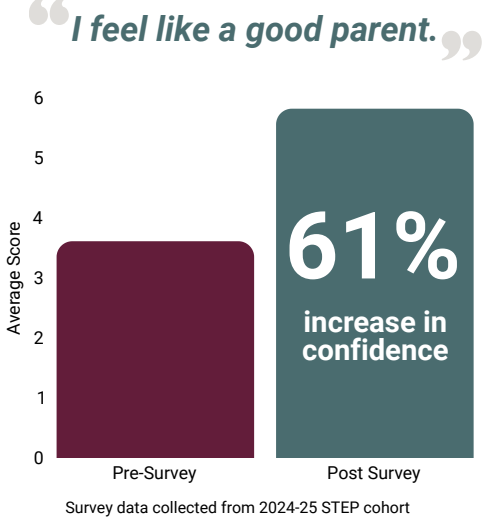
97.4%
Willing to Recommend the Course to Others

98.8%
Reported Learned Helpful Parenting Skills

94%
Reported Improve Family Relationships



Somali Bantu STEP class graduation, led by instructor Habiba Nur



Survey data collected from 2024-25 STEP cohort

What Parents Are Saying About STEP

Parents who participated in the program are more likely to use communication tools and less likely to use violence to resolve conflicts with their children. Parents in the program seem to recognize the shift as well. Parents reported “learn[ing] to listen to [their] child and not hurt them” and that “there are less (sic) arguments at home”.

> **I learn to let my child make their own decision and guide them towards good decisions.**
>
> Somali-speaking parent

> **I learned the different styles of parenting and how important it is to communicate with children.**
>
> Arabic-speaking parent

> **I really learned a lot about myself and my way of parenting.**
>
> Somali-speaking parent







Parents in this cohort wrote that they had already noticed a difference in their relationship with their children. Parents reported that “things are more united now in the family”, that they “talk together and play games”, and that the “relationship is great now, even with [her] husband”.

> **We [my family] are more united due to the class.**
>
> Kinyarwanda-speaking parent

> **We eat dinner together and go out together.**
>
> Somali-speaking parent

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

24 Trauma-Informed Mental Health Care

25 FY25 Program Impact

26 Outreach & Training

27 Client Success Story


MTN
RDY
Donate!

TRAUMA-INFORMED MENTAL HEALTH CARE

AAU's Behavioral Health team provides **holistic, trauma-informed, culturally responsive mental health therapy services to refugees, refugee youth and survivors of human trafficking**. Our licensed clinicians use evidence based therapeutic approaches tailored to each client's unique needs. Whether we are working to address adjustment disorders, depression, severe chronic illness, or counseling survivors of domestic violence, we strive to provide services that help individuals and families build on their strengths and become integrated members of the community.

This past year has been one of growth, adaptability, and impact for Behavorial Health, where we expanded in size, scope and strengthened our service delivery systems in order to decrease barriers to care for our community. Our team consisted of 11 full-time staff, 2 interns, 2 contracted therapists, and 1 APRN.

7 **Therapists**

3 **Case Managers**

2 **Interns**

1 **Advanced Practice Registered Nurse**

Our services are funded by multiple streams, including donations from generous community partners like: CommonSpirit, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Intermountain Health, George S and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation, Sorensen Legacy Foundation, Optum Bank, First Electronic Bank, Daybreak Community Council, and the Utah Association of Financial Services.



PROGRAM IMPACT

Our team **prioritized increased accessibility to mental health care by removing key barriers.** Through partnerships with AAU's Refugee After School program and Utah International Charter School, we have incorporated psychoeducation, skill-building groups, and individual therapy for youth aged 5-18 years. We maintained continuity of care for clients who lost Medicaid coverage using alternative funding sources and addressed transportation barriers through Uber Health and offering in-home therapy.



Specialized Mental Health Initiatives



Individual, Family & Group Psychotherapy



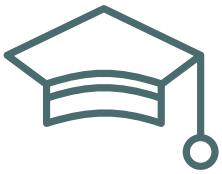
Medication Management



Language Interpreting Services for Therapy



Outpatient Mental Health, Substance Use, and Domestic Violence Services



Expanded Programming for Refugee Youth at Afterschool Program



Psychoeducation Groups for Community Building & English Learning



Provided Youth and Adult Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA and MHFA) Trainings

430+
Clients Served

3,965
Therapy Sessions

291
New Clients

2,400+
Hours of Interpretation

620+
Case Management Sessions

25
Unique Funding Sources

250
Community Partners Trained

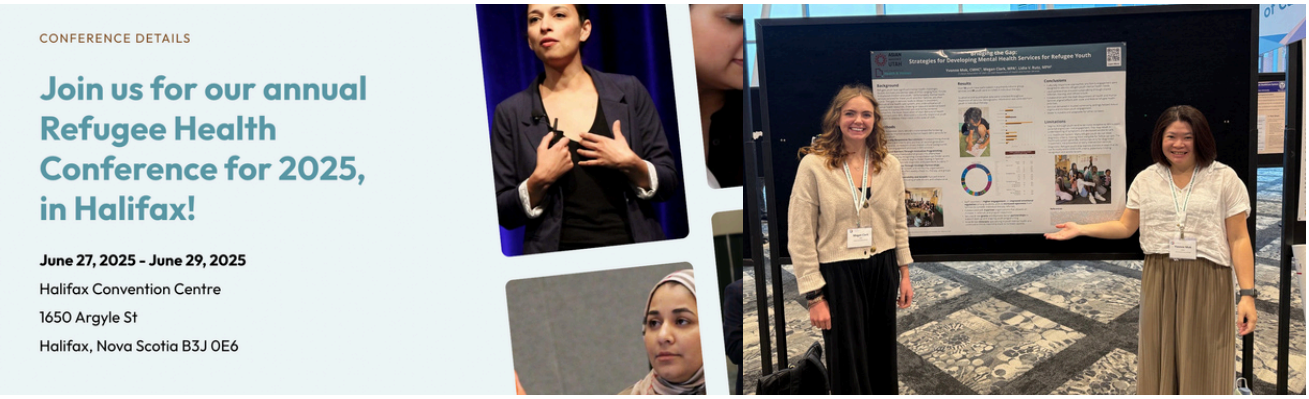
330+
Medication Management Appointments

OUTREACH & TRAINING

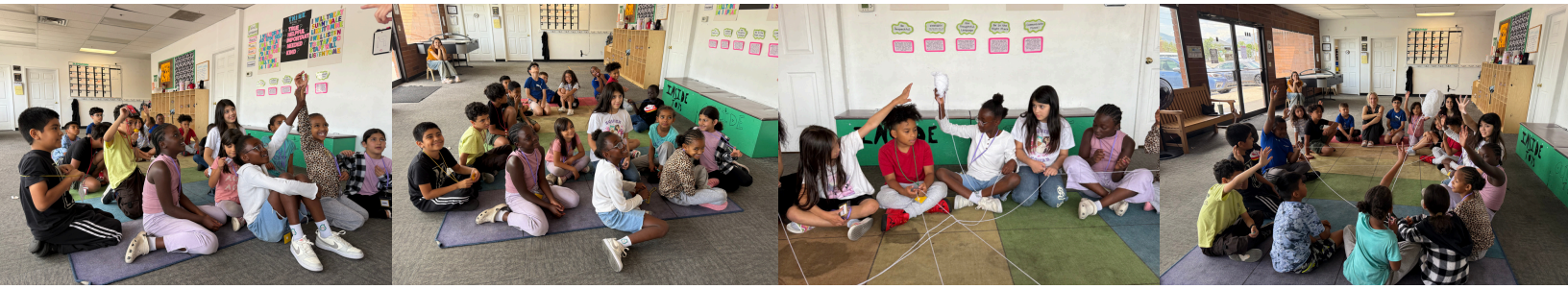
In June 2025, AAU's Behavioral Health Director partnered with the Utah Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to **present on the expansion of behavioral health services to youth at the International Refugee and Migrant Health Conference in Halifax, Canada.** Clinical Director Yvonne Mok and Director of Operations Megan Clark delivered "Bridging the Gap: Strategies for Developing Mental Health Services for Refugee Youth," sharing AAU's innovative approaches with an international audience.

We launched a six-week support group program specifically designed for the Afghan community, focusing on mental health while strengthening community connections among both male and female groups. In addition, we also began a weekly walking group for multi-lingual clients with opportunities to interact, strengthen community connections and practice English conversational skills.

Additionally, AAU was invited by Trauma-Informed Utah to participate in an extensive six-month evaluation and improvement process for our agency-wide trauma-informed systems, processes, and approach, with a core team established to guide this transformative journey. **Our commitment to community education extended through cultural and trauma responsiveness trainings**, including Mental Health First Aid programs delivered to local providers such as the Veterans Hospital, Youthlinc, and CCS Foster Care providers. In partnership with DHHS, we also provided mental health wellness activities at World Refugee Day, ensuring holistic support reaches our community.



Megan Clark, Director of Behavioral Health Operations, and Yvonne Mok, Clinical Director, presenting at the 2025 International Refugee and Migrant Health Conference hosted by Society of Refugee Healthcare Providers



Youth at AAU's Sunnyvale Neighborhood Center Afterschool Program learn mental health skills through an interactive psychoeducational activity.

From Trauma to Triumph: A Story of Resilience

When a young woman from South America arrived at AAU, she was struggling to overcome significant trauma and exploitation. Through integrated support with trauma-informed therapy, comprehensive case management, and consistent mentorship, she embarked on a healing journey.

Working closely with our behavioral health team, she processed her trauma while simultaneously pursuing her goals. Her resilience shone through as she earned her high school diploma despite the challenges she faced. She didn't stop there: she completed a professional certification program, enrolled in higher education, and secured part-time employment, each milestone building on the last.

Her behavioral health therapist notes “It’s been a privilege to walk alongside my client on this journey. I’ve seen her show up with courage, honesty, and determination, even on the hardest days. There were moments of doubt and pain, but also so many moments of growth and joy. **Watching her grow in confidence, celebrate her accomplishments, and begin to believe in her own potential has been incredibly moving. Her strength and resilience remind me how powerful it is when people feel supported and believed in.**"

Today, she balances work, school, and continued engagement with support services. She has built a life defined not by what happened to her, but by her strength, her goals, and her hope for the future. Her story is a powerful reminder that with comprehensive, trauma-informed care, survivors can move beyond healing to truly thriving.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING SUPPORT

28 Leader in Human Trafficking Support
28 Survivor Support Center
29 Education and Outreach
30 Drop-In Center
31 Case Management
32 Housing
33 Economic Empowerment
34 Recovery Support Services
35 Youth Mentoring



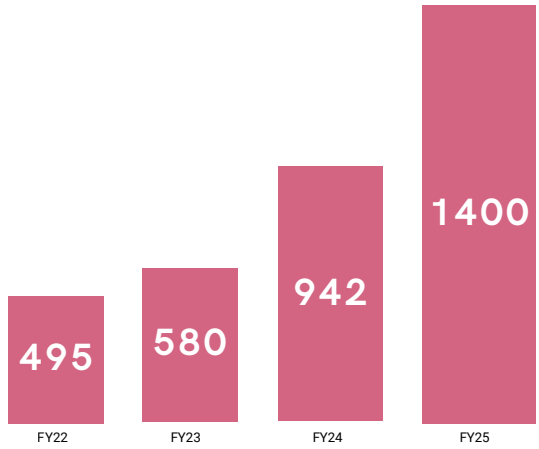
Photos from Human Trafficking Survivor Support Center Open House

LEADER IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVOR SUPPORT

Started in 2010, AAU is **Utah's largest and most comprehensive human trafficking victim service provider.** We envision a future where survivors thrive in dignity, safety, and self-sufficiency, supported by well-informed and united communities actively combatting human trafficking.

In partnership with the **Utah Attorney General's Office, we co-chair the Utah Trafficking in Persons (UTIP) Task Force**, working collaboratively to combat human trafficking in our state. This Task Force is funded through September 2027 with AAU serving on the core team and advisory board while co-chairing multiple working groups as the Task Force restructures and improves.

Total # of Human Trafficking Survivors Served:



> **"I wanted to take the time to thank you for all of the help the agency has given me to help me move forward into a new chapter of hope, health, and happiness in my life.**
>
> Sex trafficking survivor

> **"I am more than what happened to me but its hard when people try to rob you of your humanity. I will never forget the help AAU gave me when no one else did.**
>
> Labor trafficking survivor

SURVIVOR SUPPORT CENTER

This year, after months of dedicated renovation work, we completed the transformation of our Major Street office into a dedicated Human Trafficking Survivor Support Center. We celebrated this milestone with an open house in September and welcomed over 150 visitors to learn about our programs.

The space served as AAU's main office many years ago, but had sat mostly empty and unused. Now, it has been transformed into an active survivor support center housing our Human Trafficking Support team, functional office spaces, conference rooms, spaces dedicated for youth and meeting areas for our team **to serve trafficking survivors with dignity and care.**

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

The Human Trafficking Education and Outreach program serves 3 critical purposes:

1. Identifying victims of human trafficking
2. Increasing the community's capacity to recognize, report, and respond to trafficking
3. Connecting victims to available services

Our education efforts include training presentations delivered statewide in tailored formats for specific audiences and topics, offered in-person, virtually, or hybrid, with English and Spanish options. Outreach activities encompass tabling events statewide, services at AAU's Drop-In Center, targeted outreach to individuals at high risk of being or having been trafficked, and strategic engagement with organizations likely to work with trafficking survivors, ensuring comprehensive community awareness and response capacity.

1,498

Community members trained through 48 presentations

1,729+

Community members reached through 30 events







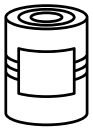
DROP-IN CENTER

At our Survivor Support Center, we operate a low-barrier weekly drop-in center where any individuals at risk of or survivors of human trafficking **can access essential services in a centralized location.** Together with partners, we provide emergency services, food, clothing, medical care, harm reduction and warm meals.

692
Survivors Served

1,995
Visits to the Center

7,503
Services Provided

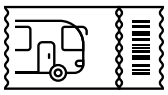

Food from Utah Food Bank


Clothing


Hygiene & Safe Sex Kit


Utah Naloxone


Community Housing Resource


UTA Day Bus Pass

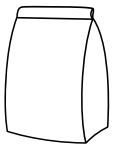

Crisis Case Management


Peer Support


Information & Referrals


In House Medical Care


Harm Reduction & Medicaid Application


Warm Meals & Packed Lunches

FOURTH STREET CLINIC
MELESSNESS HURTS. HEALTH CARE HEL

SOAP2HOPE
NOT FORGOTTEN

BE A LITTLE TOO KIND .ORG

> **Going to drop-in was such good medicine for my soul.**
> Survivor in transitional housing

CASE MANAGEMENT

Our trauma-informed, survivor-centered, culturally responsive case management program provides personalized wraparound support to help human trafficking survivors access resources, set goals, and rebuild their lives in safety and dignity. Services include individualized goal planning, assistance across 18+ areas of self-sufficiency, advocacy and navigation of complex systems, emotional and peer support, connection to community resources, and crisis support as needed.

We honor each survivor's story, meet them where they are, and walk with them toward healing, stability, and hope, recognizing that every person's journey is unique and requires compassionate, flexible support tailored to their individual circumstances and goals.

318
Survivors Served

732
New Client Referrals

21,264
Instances of Services Provided

Arizona Self-Sufficiency Matrix

The Arizona Self-Sufficiency Matrix is an assessment tool that evaluates clients across 18 life domains—from housing and employment to mental health and parenting skills—rating each on a 1-5 scale from crisis to thriving. This allows case managers to identify needs, track progress, and tailor services to help clients sustain self-sufficiency and thrive.



HOUSING

AAU's Human Trafficking Support Housing program provided critical stability to trafficking survivors through 2,249 housing services this year, including 561 incidents of rental assistance totaling $475,903. Sixty-seven trafficking survivors received transitional housing support for up to 24 months, while 29 incidents of crisis hotel assistance offered immediate safety to individuals in urgent need. The addition of a new Housing Specialist **strengthened our capacity to deliver comprehensive housing advocacy and support across emergency, short-term, transitional, and long-term housing pathways.**

$475,903

Total Rental Assistance



Emergency Housing

Available for eligible individuals in urgent need of safety, services may include:

- Personalized safety planning
- Support accessing domestic violence shelters or other safe housing
- Temporary hotel stays

Short-Term Housing

Available to eligible individuals facing housing instability or financial hardship, services may include:

- Temporary rent assistance
- Deposit fees
- Advocacy to connect with rapid re-housing programs

Transitional Housing

Available to eligible individuals experiencing homelessness to aid in working towards self- sufficiency, services may include:

- Access to AAU leased units or survivor rented units
- Case management
- Financial literacy
- Education assistance

Long-Term Housing

Available for eligible individuals experiencing chronic homelessness, services may include:

- Guidance in accessing community-based housing options
- Support navigating public housing or voucher programs
- Housing assessments to identify long-term solutions

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Our Economic Empowerment Services help survivors **move beyond survival to build self-sufficiency and create sustainable futures free from exploitation.** This year, we delivered 1,551 services, empowering trafficking survivors to build financial stability and independence. New employer partnerships, including Sears Home Improvement, expanded job opportunities for survivors. This holistic approach equips individuals with the financial knowledge, employment skills, and life skills necessary for sustainable self-sufficiency.

Financial Education

Covers budgeting and saving, banking options, building and repairing credit, and safe money practices that promote economic stability

Employment Support

Includes resume building, career exploration, interview practice, and work readiness training to help survivors enter or re-enter the workforce with confidence



Education & Skill Building

Provide GED and continued education support, life skills courses, digital literacy training, and assistance accessing scholarships and financial aid for upward mobility

Thrive

Serving our mission for each client to reach self-sufficiency and thrive

Economic Empowerment: Building Skills, Thriving Futures

At the beginning, [Carol] demonstrated strong ambition and big dreams but lacked clear direction. Passionate about coding and technology, she had developed skills through self-study, but the absence of formal education and professional experience created significant barriers to employment.

With support from our team, she developed a structured career plan including completing her GED and enrolling in an accredited coding course. After a year and a half in the program, **she has successfully earned her GED, is currently enrolled in a coding course, and has secured part-time employment at her school.**

Every survivor in the Economic Empowerment Services program brings unique ambitions and aspirations. With targeted guidance and consistent support, these goals can be transformed into meaningful and attainable outcomes.

RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICES

Our Recovery Support Services was started this year to **address a critical need of offering community connection, strength-based encouragement, and practical tools for sustained recovery from substance use.** Our peer support model provides personalized, one-on-one assistance grounded in lived experience and compassionate understanding from those who have walked similar paths. Life Skills Groups offer supportive collaborative environments that focus on developing practical skills in partnership with our Economic Empowerment program. We support personal healing and wellness journeys, recognizing that each individual's path to recovery is valid and requires flexible, person-centered approaches.

Recovery Supported by Housing and Hope

When [Jane] began working with AAU Human Trafficking Support team in May 2025, she was experiencing homelessness while entering recovery services. Her housing instability compounded the challenges of maintaining sobriety, placing her at significant risk of relapsing and continued instability. To address her immediate needs, Jane was initially referred to transitional housing. Through coordinated advocacy, Jane secured permanent housing within 60 days of engaging with AAU services.

This swift placement into stable housing provided the foundation Jane needed to focus on her recovery and personal development. Since securing housing, she has achieved notable milestones, including earning her ServeSafe and food handling certifications, which have expanded her employment opportunities. Building on this progress, Jane is now pursuing higher education in interior design, aligning her career goals with her personal interests and strengths.

Equally important, **Jane has remained sober throughout her journey and has become an active member of a supportive recovery community.** She continues to meet regularly with her case manager, fully engaging in available resources and programming. Her transformation has been described by her case manager as “inspiring,” serving as a source of motivation for other clients navigating similar challenges.

YOUTH MENTORING

The Human Trafficking Support Youth Mentoring Program was implemented this year to provide comprehensive support to young survivors impacted by human trafficking through personalized mentorship relationships. **Youth develop trusting relationships with trained mentors who provide wraparound support, empowering them to navigate challenges and progress toward healing.**



We built a dedicated space for youth at our new Human Trafficking Survivor Support Center.

Discovering Confidence, Building Community

When [Allie] first met her mentor, she was very shy and reserved. She rarely connected with peers, and her parents were concerned that she was isolating herself. Since joining the program, Allie has participated consistently and just celebrated her 16th birthday!

Working closely with her mentor, Allie created a personalized service plan focused on making friends, building confidence, and exploring her interests like soccer, art, and baking while also studying for her learner's permit, improving her English skills, and preparing for her first job.

Over time, Allie blossomed. She now looks forward to group outings and field trips, whether it's a day at the park, a community event, or a fun team activity. Her mentor notes that Allie has become more talkative and adventurous, often suggesting new places to visit, and she continues to make steady progress in speaking and understanding English.

Her parents **share that Allie has "come out of her shell" and are grateful for the encouragement and opportunities the program provides.** Allie's next steps include applying for part-time jobs and continuing to build friendships while strengthening her English, showing how mentorship can help a young person grow in confidence and joy.

INTERPRETING *and* TRANSLATION

We offer interpreting & translation services in **35 different languages with 90+ interpreters.**

In the past year, we served

16,111

clients with over

52,000

hours of interpreting.

Over the past 25 years, AAU has provided **medical interpretation services to more than 10,000 refugee families** both within AAU and outside AAU.

We are strong advocates for in-person (face-to-face) interpretation, as it allows interpreters to recognize and respond to nonverbal cues such as body language and facial expressions, critical components of effective communication, especially important when working with individuals who may struggle to express themselves verbally due to language barriers or trauma.

We are committed to ensuring linguistic and cultural competence in every service interaction. This commitment is reflected in the makeup of our team of our 90 staff and contracted interpreters, the vast majority share the cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the clients they serve, particularly in medical settings. This alignment allows AAU to deliver more accurate, empathetic, and context-sensitive interpretation services.

Our deep involvement within Utah's refugee communities, combined with our understanding of their pre-resettlement experiences, uniquely positions our interpreters to navigate complex medical, mental health, and social situations with cultural sensitivity and professionalism.




UTAH
ASIAN
FESTIVAL
ASIAN ASSOCIATION OF UTAH

The Utah Asian Festival **has grown to over 15,000 attendees who attend this family-friendly, one-day Festival to discover a diverse array of delectable cuisines from our 30+ food trucks/booths, 70+ booths** featuring local artisans, educational cultural booths, Asian-owned businesses, mini health fair, and local nonprofits.

AAU is the host organization of the Utah Asian Festival since 1977 and we convene 55 volunteer leaders to serve on the planning committee over the course of eight months. The committee represents more than 40 different Asian ethnic community groups and consists of longstanding members with institutional knowledge and newly recruited young professionals. These volunteers dedicate their personal time leading out on the following aspects of the planning process:

- Food, cultural, nonprofit and commercial booths
- Children's activities
- Community outreach
- Decorations
- Festival program and performance
- Fundraising
- Operations
- Public relations and marketing
- Social media
- Volunteer recruitment

Additionally, the festival brings another 100 community partners to volunteer on the day of the event for equipment and logistical setup and to serve as directional guides and activity monitors. As part of the recruitment of volunteers, the committee works to strengthen our ties with businesses through their affinity and employee resource groups.

We will see you at the 49th annual festival on June 6, 2026 from 11 AM to 9 PM at the Utah State Fairpark.



THANK YOU!

To Another Year of Impact

Thank you for your commitment to strengthening Utah's communities. As we work to engage, equip, and empower refugees, refugee youth, and human trafficking survivors with the tools, support, and resources they need to thrive, the support of dedicated partners remains essential.

These efforts are only possible through the support of dedicated partners and community members like you.

As a reminder, we serve individuals and families from over 100 countries, speaking 35+ languages, representing 17 nationalities on our staff alone. The communities we serve face extreme poverty, trauma, language barriers, and systemic challenges that require comprehensive, culturally responsive support.

Your partnership and support will sustain vital programming and caring staff who journey alongside each individual and family, providing trauma-informed services that transform lives. Together, we can ensure that every person—regardless of circumstance—has the opportunity to move from crisis to stability, from survival to self-sufficiency, and ultimately to thriving.

Newsletter Signup

aau-slc.org/newsletter

Donate to Support

aau-slc.org/donate

AAU is a registered 501(c)(3) organization and your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.


ASIAN ASSOCIATION OF UTAH
2025





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585 West 3900 South #2,
Salt Lake City, UT 84123

Main Office
155 South 300 West,
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

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1588 South Major Street,
Salt Lake City, UT 84111