RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Riverside Community Foundation Annual Report 2025

1. Letter from the director

This year the foundation supported 1,204 residents across the county with housing, food security, after-school learning and job training. Every figure in this report was reviewed by the finance committee and audited by an independent firm.

We measure success by outcomes rather than activity: stable housing after twelve months, children reading at grade level and adults placed in work that pays a living wage. Where a program fell short, the relevant section says so.

The board thanks the volunteers who gave more than nine thousand hours and the partners who matched every public dollar with private support. This report is published in an accessible format so that every reader can use it.

2. Who we served

The foundation served 1,204 residents in 2025, an increase of 14 percent over the previous year. Growth came mainly from the food security and youth programs, which opened two new sites in the eastern part of the county.

Participants are counted once per year regardless of how many programs they use. About one in three households took part in more than one program, most often food assistance combined with either housing support or after-school learning.

Demand continues to exceed capacity in housing support, where the waiting list averaged 61 households through the year.

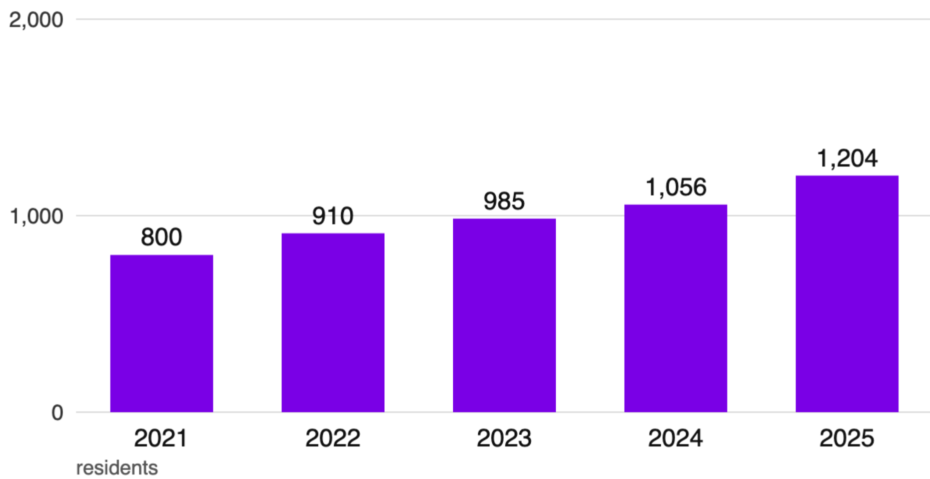

Figure 1. Residents served, 2021 to 2025.

3. Housing stability

The housing program helped 212 households avoid eviction or move into stable accommodation. Twelve months after enrolment, 83 percent of the households we could reach were still housed, compared with 71 percent in 2022 when the program began.

Case managers now meet each household within five working days of referral, down from an average of eleven days. Faster contact was the single strongest predictor of a household keeping its home.

Rental assistance remains the largest cost line. The average grant was 1,340 dollars, paid directly to landlords, with repayment plans agreed in 38 cases.

4. Program outcomes

The table below summarises participation and completion for the four core programs. Completion means the participant reached the outcome defined at enrolment, not simply attendance.

Literacy tutoring had the highest completion rate, helped by a new reading assessment that lets tutors set a realistic goal in the first week. Job training completion fell slightly because two employer partners paused hiring in the spring.

Program	Participants	Completed	Completion rate
Literacy tutoring	318	280	88%
Job training	640	486	76%
Housing support	212	176	83%
Food security	742	742	100%

Table 1. Participation and completion by program, 2025.

5. Food security

The food program distributed 1.9 million pounds of food through four pantries and a mobile route that visits eleven rural stops each week. Fresh produce made up 41 percent of the total, up from 33 percent, thanks to a new arrangement with three regional farms.

Households visit an average of 2.3 times per month. A short survey at intake showed that 58 percent of new households had never used a food pantry before, which matches what partner agencies report about rising costs.

The mobile route is the most expensive service per pound but reaches people who have no transport. The board has approved a second vehicle for 2026.

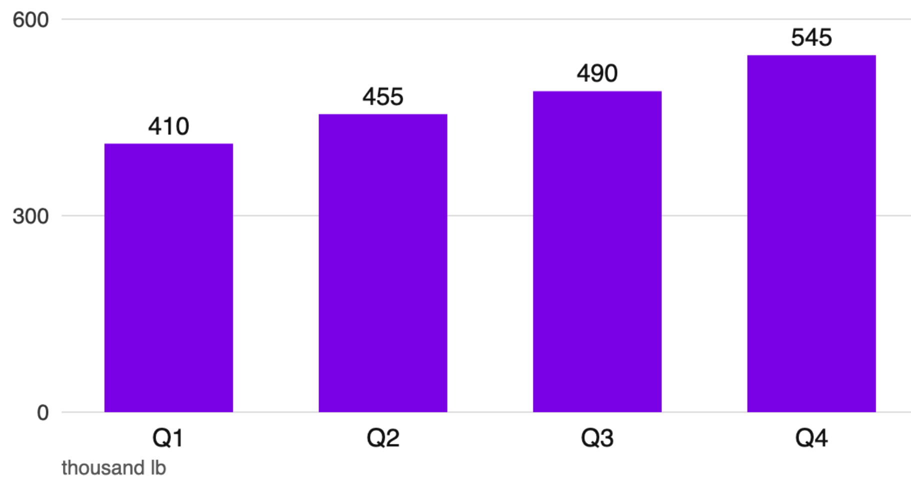

Figure 2. Food distributed per quarter, thousands of pounds.

6. Youth and learning

After-school programs enrolled 318 children at six school sites. Reading assessments in September and May showed that 72 percent of participants gained at least one grade level, and 41 percent gained two or more.

Attendance is the main driver of progress. Children who attended three or more sessions a week gained an average of 1.6 grade levels; those attending once a week gained 0.7.

Two sites piloted a family reading evening once a month. Parents reported reading with their children more often at home, and both sites will continue the evenings in 2026.

7. Workforce development

Job training served 640 adults across certificate courses in health care support, logistics and building trades. Of the 486 who completed, 402 were placed in work within ninety days at a median starting wage of 21.40 dollars per hour.

Retention at six months was 79 percent for placements made through employer partners and 64 percent for placements made independently, which supports our decision to invest in more partner relationships.

Childcare and transport remain the most common reasons for withdrawal. A small emergency fund covered 94 requests, most under 200 dollars, and 81 of those participants went on to complete.

8. Volunteers and partners

Volunteers contributed 9,140 hours in 2025. Pantry shifts, tutoring and mobile route support account for most of the total, and a group of retired accountants again reviewed every grant file before submission.

Forty-two organisations partnered with the foundation, including school districts, two hospital systems, faith communities and twelve employers. Partners provided space, referrals and matched funding worth 1.1 million dollars.

The foundation recognises that outcomes in this report belong to the whole network rather than to any one organisation.

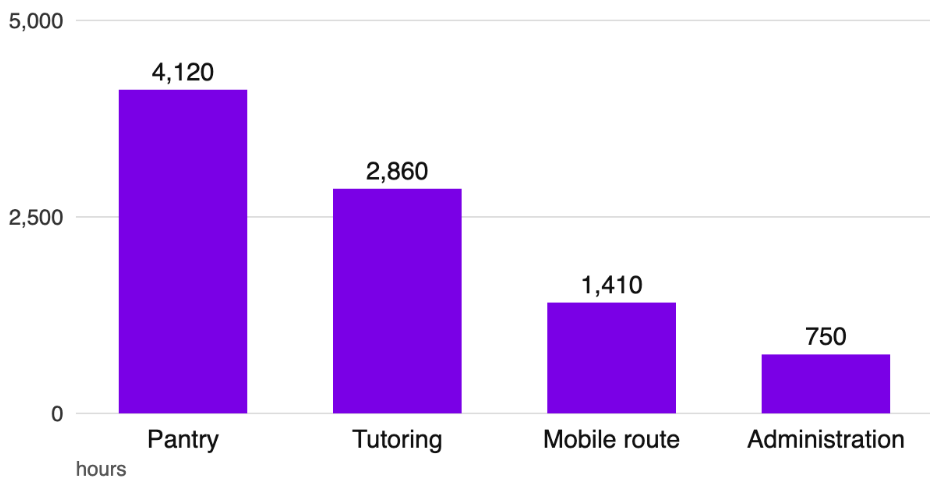

Figure 3. Volunteer hours by activity, 2025.

9. Financial summary

Total revenue was 6.8 million dollars: 44 percent from government contracts, 31 percent from foundations, 19 percent from individual donors and 6 percent from earned income and events. Expenses were 6.5 million dollars, of which 86 percent went directly to programs.

The foundation holds an operating reserve equal to 4.2 months of expenses, within the board policy range of three to six months. Audited statements are available on request and are filed with the state.

No single funder provided more than 18 percent of revenue, which the board considers a reasonable concentration for an organisation of this size.

10. Governance

The foundation is governed by a board of eleven directors who serve staggered three-year terms. The board met six times in 2025 and its audit, finance and program committees met quarterly.

A conflict-of-interest policy is signed annually by every director and senior staff member. Two directors recused themselves from grant decisions involving partner organisations during the year.

The executive director reports to the board and is evaluated each year against goals set the previous autumn.

11. Looking ahead

In 2026 the foundation will add a second mobile food route, extend housing case management to a seventh town and pilot a paid apprenticeship in partnership with two building contractors.

We will also publish quarterly outcome updates in the same accessible format as this report, so that partners and residents can follow progress without waiting a full year.

Thank you for reading. Questions about any figure in this report are welcome, and the finance committee will answer them in writing.