PEER VOICES UNITED

Impact Report 2024

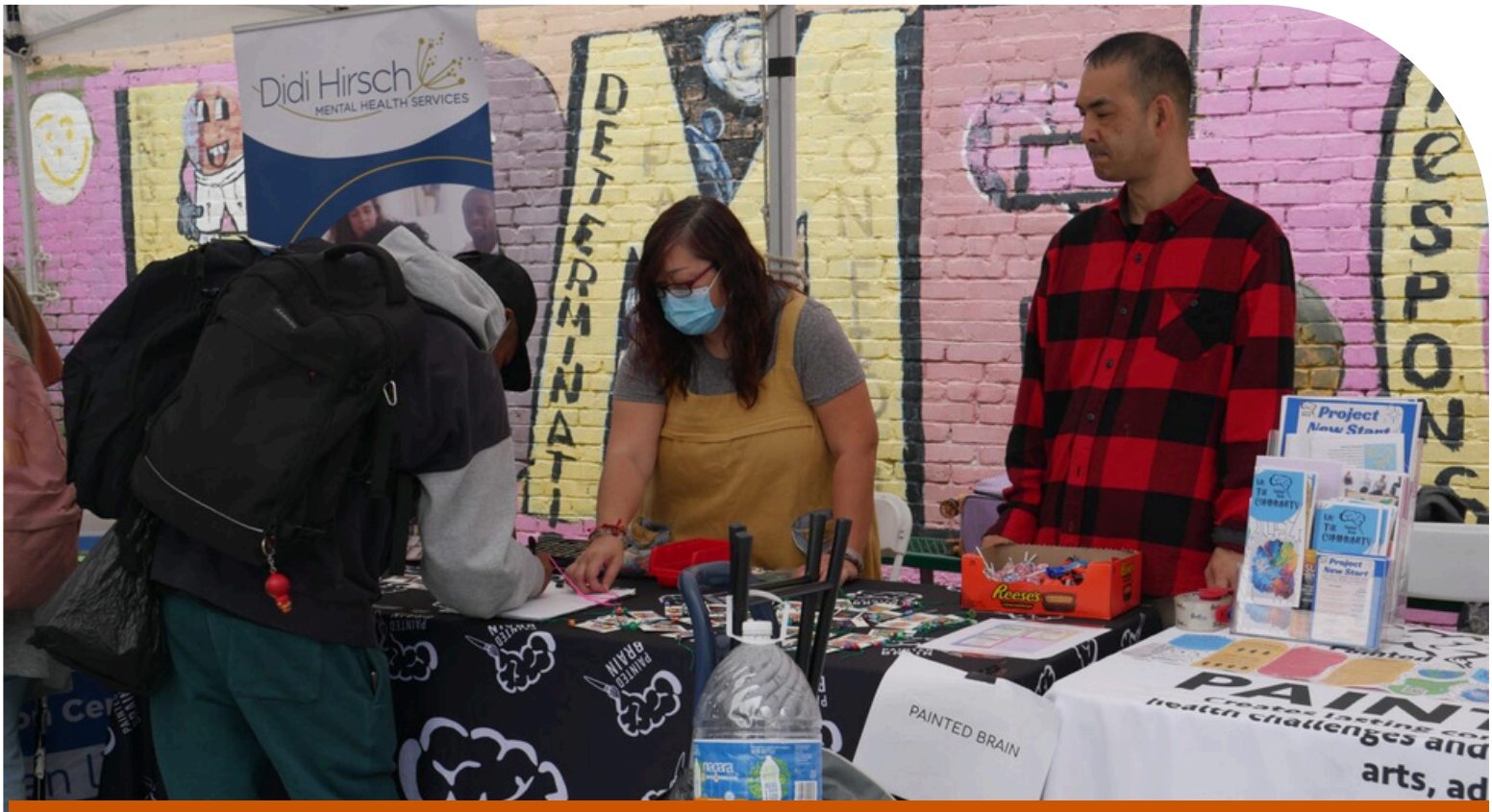
PEER VOICES UNITED

Who We Are

Peer Voices is a nonprofit empowering individuals with lived experiences to become advocates, mentors, and changemakers in their communities. We bridge the gap between peers and professionals through peer-led programs, training, and resources that promote resilience and growth. Our mission is to enhance mental health and well-being for justice-involved individuals and their families by fostering support, community, and equity. We believe every voice can inspire, turning experiences into impactful change.

Who We Serve

We support individuals from all walks of life, including but not limited to those facing mental health and substance use challenges. LGBTQ+ individuals, survivors of trauma, individuals with disabilities, individuals impacted by the criminal justice system, individuals experiencing homelessness and anyone seeking a platform for expression, connection, resources and support.



Nothing About Us Without Us! Our Goal is to create a collaborative movement that unites all people and voices in the behavioral healthcare arena.

Orlando Vera

1,250+

Peer Services Delivered

700+

Unique Clients Served

500+

Referrals Made

400+

SUpport Groups Held

30+

Partnerships and Collaborations

11+

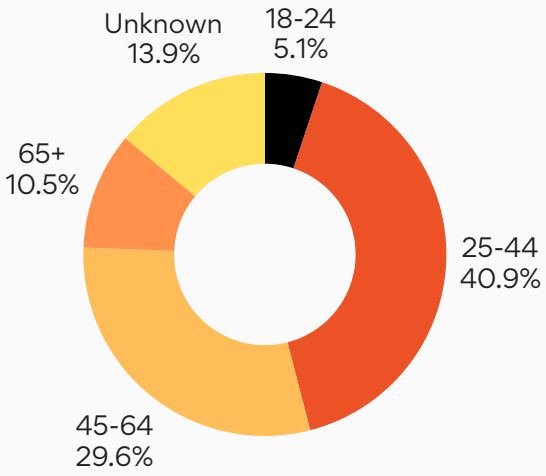
Justice Involved Services

Population Served Statistics

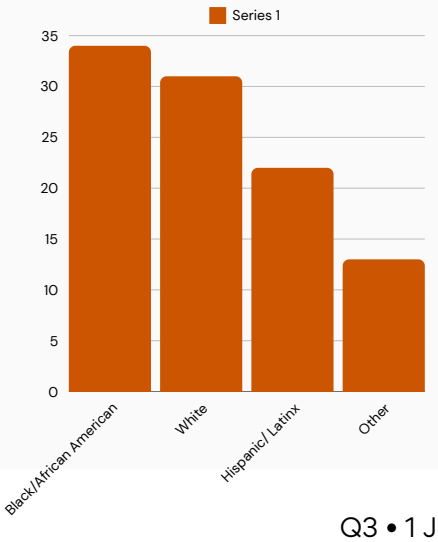
PVU serves a diverse population, focusing on individuals facing barriers related to justice involvement, mental health, and social reintegration. Our programs primarily support adults between the ages of 24-64, who represent over 64% of our client base. We work extensively with Black, Latinx, and other marginalized communities, ensuring culturally competent peer-led support. Many of our participants have experienced homelessness, incarceration, or systemic challenges accessing healthcare, making our work crucial in bridging these gaps. Additionally, PVU is committed to supporting non-English speaking populations, offering bilingual resources and advocacy to expand accessibi

Gender

Age



Ethnicity



Referrals and Support Groups

Referrals are a vital component of PVU's service model, ensuring that individuals receive comprehensive and specialized support tailored to their needs. In 2024, PVU facilitated housing and reentry referrals, helping individuals find stable housing and reestablish their lives post-incarceration. Additionally, referrals were made for substance abuse recovery, mental health services, and other critical resources. These referrals connect participants with partner organizations that provide housing assistance, employment support, legal aid, and healthcare access, creating a robust support system for those transitioning back into the community.

OUR REFERRALS

Peer Support Services	**28.49%**
Substance Abuse & Recovery Support	**8.6%**
Emotional & Mental Health	**15.47%**
Workforce Development	**7.79%**
Housing & Reentry Assistance	**10.35%**

OUR SUPPORT GROUPS

Support groups play an essential role in fostering emotional well-being and providing a sense of community for individuals navigating challenges related to justice involvement, mental health, and substance recovery. Key recurring groups such as Heart & Home Support, Justice-Involved Peer Circles, and Mental Health & Emotional Awareness Groups provide safe spaces where participants can share experiences, develop coping strategies, and build meaningful connections. These groups help reduce isolation, promote resilience, and empower individuals to take control of their recovery journey.

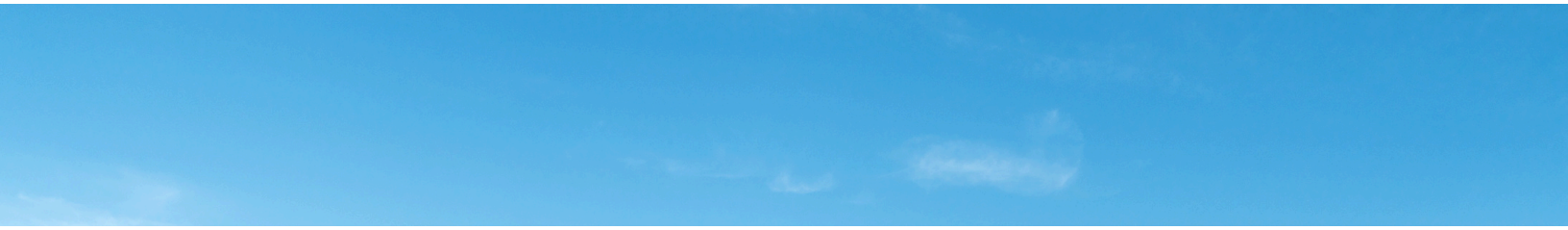
Overcoming Addiction	Living with Bipolar Disorder & Schizophrenia
Managing Grief/Crisis	Alcholics Anonymous @ Salvation Army
Grief/Emotional Support	Self Empowerment and Life Skills Support Group
Heart & Home	Beyond Our Belongings
Emotional Support For Justice Involved	Peer Empowerment Group
Recovery Support Group	Emotions Anonymous

Our Work With Grants

Grant	Outcome
HEAR US GRANT	• Expand culturally responsive peer support initiatives. • Integrate peer support within the recovery continuum. • Implement strategies to remove barriers to care for underserved communities, including BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and individuals with disabilities
Take Action LA	• Direct support services, including mental health counseling and basic needs distribution. • Community engagement activities, fostering open discussions on mental well-being. • Advocacy efforts, highlighting systemic challenges faced by the unhoused population.
APHA/EPOC	• Established foundational resources to strengthen infrastructure and sustainability • Expanded service accessibility through strategic community partnerships • Developed and Enhanced the peer workforce through specialized trainings and workshops • Developed and strenghtened internal systems for efficient organizational operations.

Justice Involved

Peer Voices United has been at the forefront of providing support and advocacy for justice-involved individuals, ensuring successful reentry and long-term stability. Key initiatives in 2024 included:



Reentry Support Services:

PVU provided individualized support to justice-involved individuals, assisting with housing, employment, and mental health services to facilitate a smooth transition back into the community.

Peer-Led Mentorship:

Experienced peer mentors guided justice-involved participants through structured programs focused on personal development, employment readiness, and legal navigation.

Care Court & Advocacy Efforts:

PVU actively participated in policy discussions and legislative advocacy to improve conditions for justice-involved individuals, ensuring they receive equitable access to mental health resources and legal assistance.

Workforce Development & Employment Support:

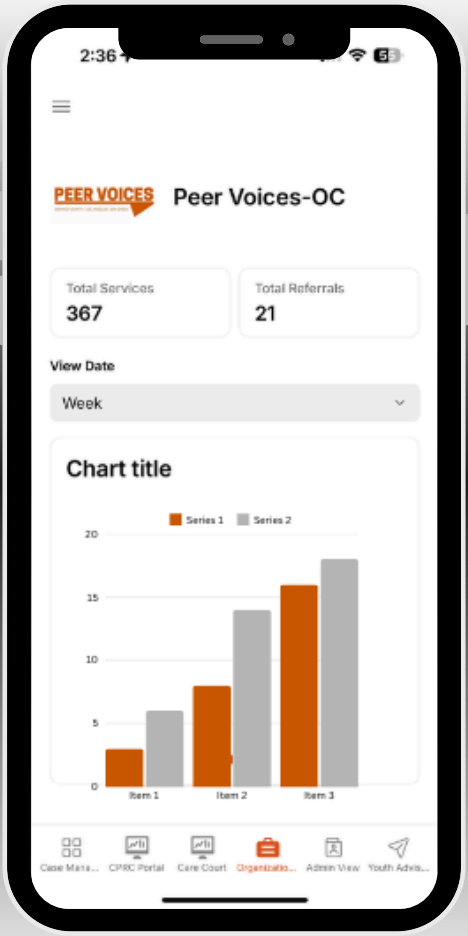
PVU connected justice-involved individuals with job training programs, career counseling, and employment placement services, significantly improving job retention rates among participants.

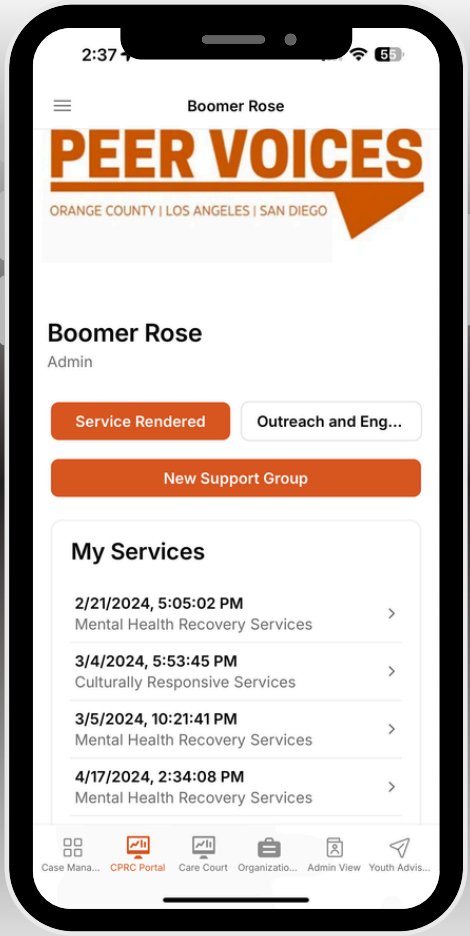
Support Groups & Emotional Well-Being:

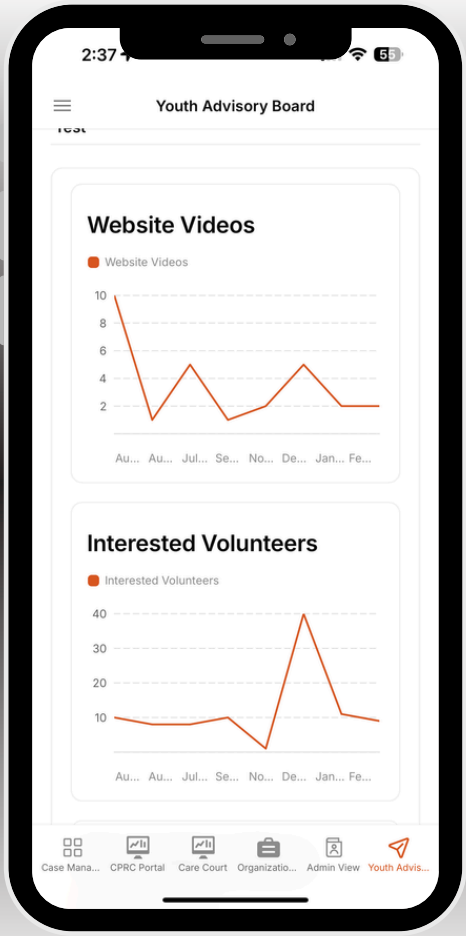
Weekly support groups provided a safe space for justice-involved individuals to share their experiences, develop coping strategies, and foster resilience.

Peer 2 Recovery

This year, Peer Voices United (PVU) developed the Peer 2 Recovery app, a groundbreaking tool designed to streamline grant management and data reporting for peer-led organizations. Built with accessibility and efficiency in mind, the app allows users to track program activities, document service outcomes, and generate real-time reports, ensuring transparency and accountability in grant-funded initiatives. By centralizing data collection, Peer 2 Recovery enhances the ability of organizations to measure impact, identify trends, and make data-driven decisions to improve service delivery. This innovation not only reduces administrative burdens but also empowers peer support programs to focus more on direct engagement and community impact.







Future Goals & Strategic Vision

Peer Voices United (PVU) remains dedicated to expanding its impact and strengthening the peer support movement through innovation, advocacy, and sustainability. As we look ahead, our focus is on broadening access to peer-driven services, enhancing digital tools for greater engagement, and creating more opportunities for professional development. We aim to build a stronger, more connected peer workforce while continuing to advocate for policies that promote equity and inclusion. By securing sustainable funding and fostering meaningful collaborations, PVU is committed to growing its reach and ensuring lasting change in the communities we serve.

Expand Reach & Accessibility:
Increase outreach efforts to serve at least 350 more clients in 2025.

Enhance Digital Tools:
Improve engagement through the Guiding Light App for seamless resource access.

Strengthen Workforce Development:
Introduce more career coaching sessions and certification opportunities.

Policy & Advocacy Growth:
Continue justice-involved reform efforts, advocating for system-wide improvements.

Sustainable Funding & Capacity Building:
Secure additional grants to enhance program longevity.

PEER VOICES UNITED

Peer Voices United's impact in 2024 has been transformative. Through dedicated peer support, meaningful partnerships, and tireless advocacy, PVU has empowered countless individuals facing mental health challenges and justice involvement. We extend our deepest gratitude to our partners, volunteers, and community members who have supported our mission.

Together, we continue to uplift voices, transform lives, and foster resilience.

Peer Voices United
Empowering Change, One Voice at a Time.