



Atlantic Edge
CREDIT UNION

Together for Good

Sustainability Report 2025



Our Purpose in Action

Atlantic Edge Credit Union (AECU) is a purpose-driven co-operative, rooted in the legacy of the credit unions and members who built us.

Guided by our vision, mission, and co-operative principles, community impact is central to how we operate and make decisions.

This report highlights the collective efforts of our members, staff, and partners in 2025, and reflects our ongoing commitment to strengthening communities through intentional, values-based action.

Mission:

At Atlantic Edge Credit Union, we empower people and communities by providing financial services and advice built on honesty, fairness, and trust.

Vision:
Growing
Stronger
Together

CSR Principles

Governance

Our Co-operative Social Responsibility (CSR) policy will guide the integration of our co-operative principles and values into every aspect of our business operations and decision-making framework.

Members

Strong individuals, families, and communities are the building blocks for a strong Newfoundland & Labrador. Our credit union will promote the financial resilience of our members and their communities through our products, services, and social responsibility activities.

Communities

As a member-owned and democratically controlled financial co-operative, our success is linked to the success of our communities. We are committed to investing financial and nonfinancial resources to contribute to the sustainable wealth and well-being of our communities.

Environment

Our credit union is committed to supporting and enhancing environmental sustainability both within our operations and throughout our communities.

Co-operatives

Our credit union will contribute to a strong and resilient co-operative sector. We will leverage our resources to promote and uphold our co-operative values and principles through education, leadership and collaboration.

Education

Our credit union believes that education is foundational to the economic and social stability of our communities. We will leverage our financial and non-financial resources to support access to education and financial literacy to empower all members of our communities.



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Community Impact

Through volunteering, local giving, and
commitment to co-operative social responsibility.



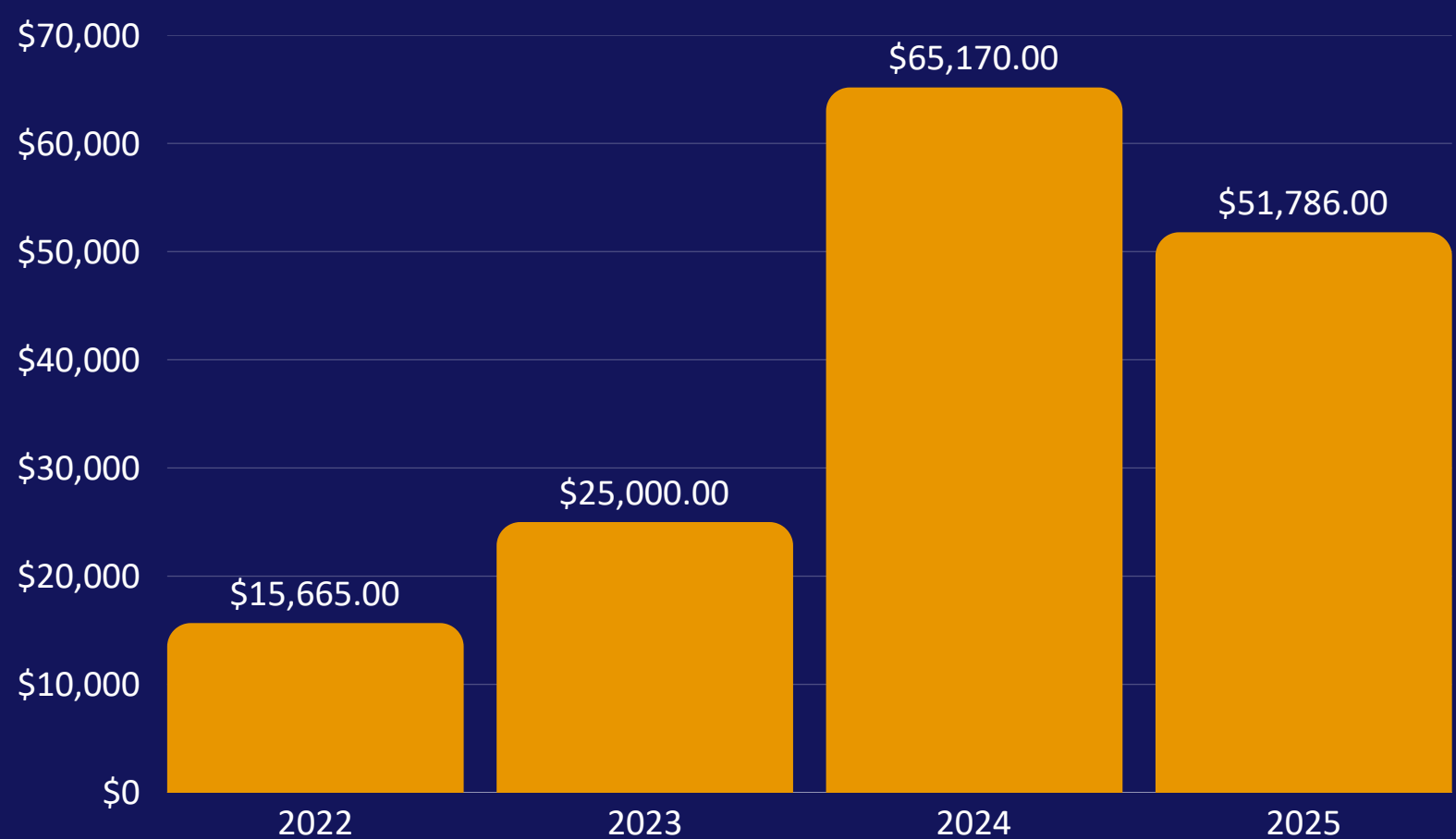
Donations and Sponsorships

AECU is deeply committed to supporting communities through meaningful donations and sponsorships across our region and beyond. This work is guided by a dedicated community impact budget, including branch-level funding that empowers local staff to support causes and initiatives that reflect the unique needs of their communities.

In addition, AECU maintains a corporate budget to support community partners, annual community impact programs such as scholarships and grants, and other donation and sponsorship opportunities that arise throughout the year. Together, these investments reflect our belief in local decision-making, strong partnerships, and the lasting impact of community-led support.



AECU Total Donations and Sponsorships



Community Enhancement Fundraiser

The Community Enhancement Fund is AECU's weekly 50/50 fundraiser, dedicated to supporting the people and places we call home. Rooted in co-operative principles, this voluntary initiative reflects our belief that when communities thrive, everyone benefits.

For every ticket sold, one dollar goes to the prize and one dollar is invested directly back into the community. All proceeds remain local, supporting programs, projects, and initiatives within the branch communities where funds are raised. Through this fund, AECU has supported a wide range of community needs, including local schools, hospitals, libraries, animal rescues, volunteer fire departments, and many other organizations. Branch staff are empowered to direct donations to causes that matter most to their members, ensuring support is both meaningful and community-led.



In 2025,
all 16 branches
participated...

...raising
\$79,500 for
community
causes!

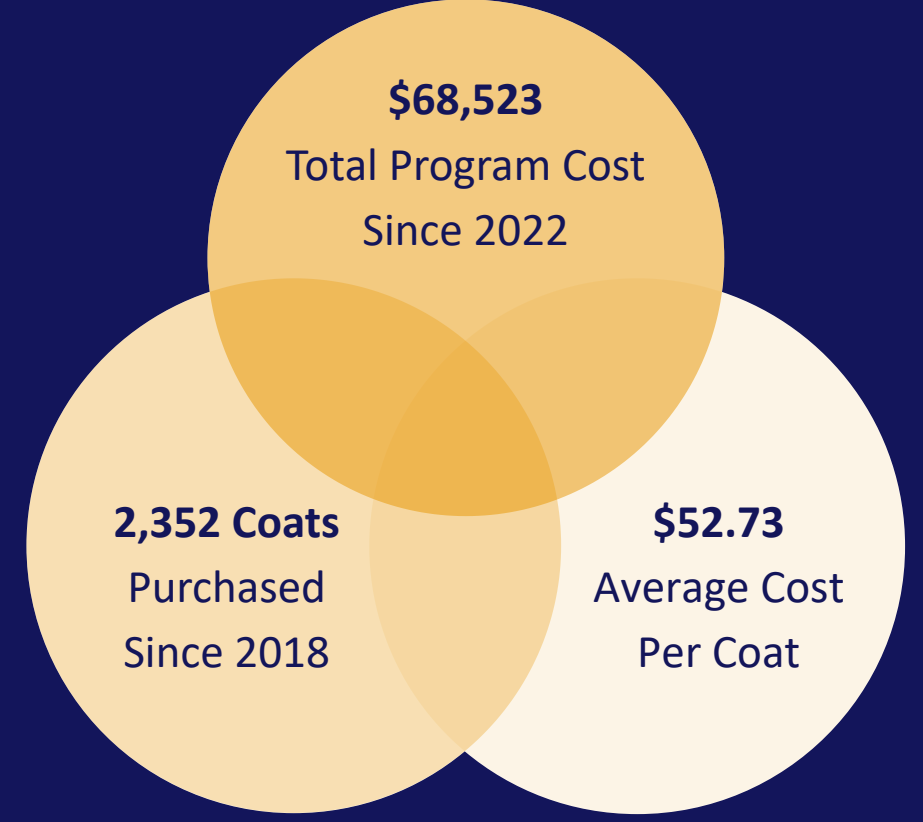
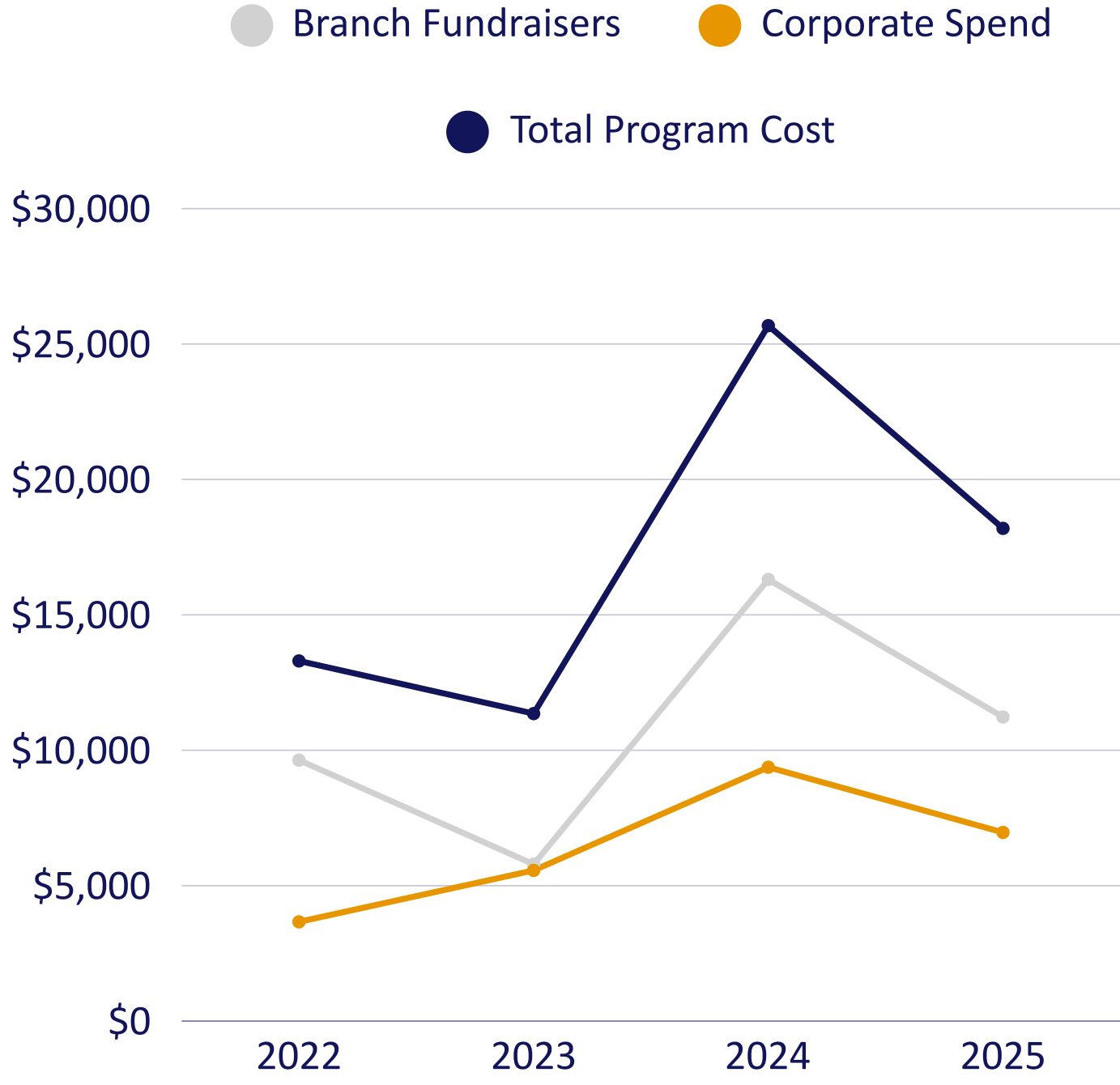
Warm Coats for Kids

Since AECU was formed in 2022, the Warm Coats for Kids Program has provided more than 1,400 winter coats to children across our communities, and over 2,300 coats since 2018 through AECU's founding credit unions. These numbers reflect the generosity and commitment of our members and community partners. In 2025, the program supported the purchase of 345 brand-new winter coats, representing a total investment of \$18,192.64.

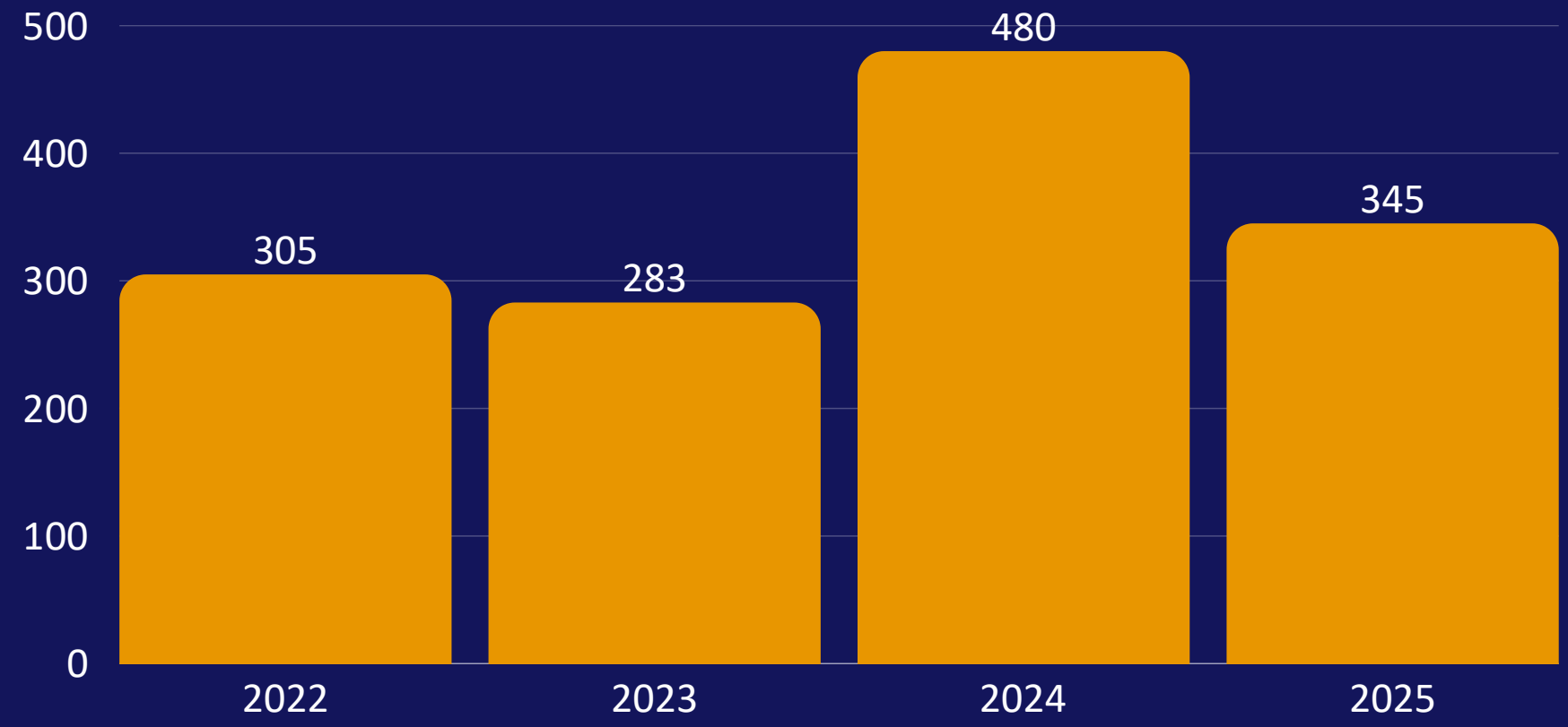
For many families, the rising cost of essentials such as food, shelter, and heat leaves little room for warm winter clothing. The Warm Coats for Kids Program helps bridge that gap by ensuring children receive a new coat—offering not only warmth, but also confidence, dignity, and a sense of belonging during the winter months.



Warm Coats for Kids



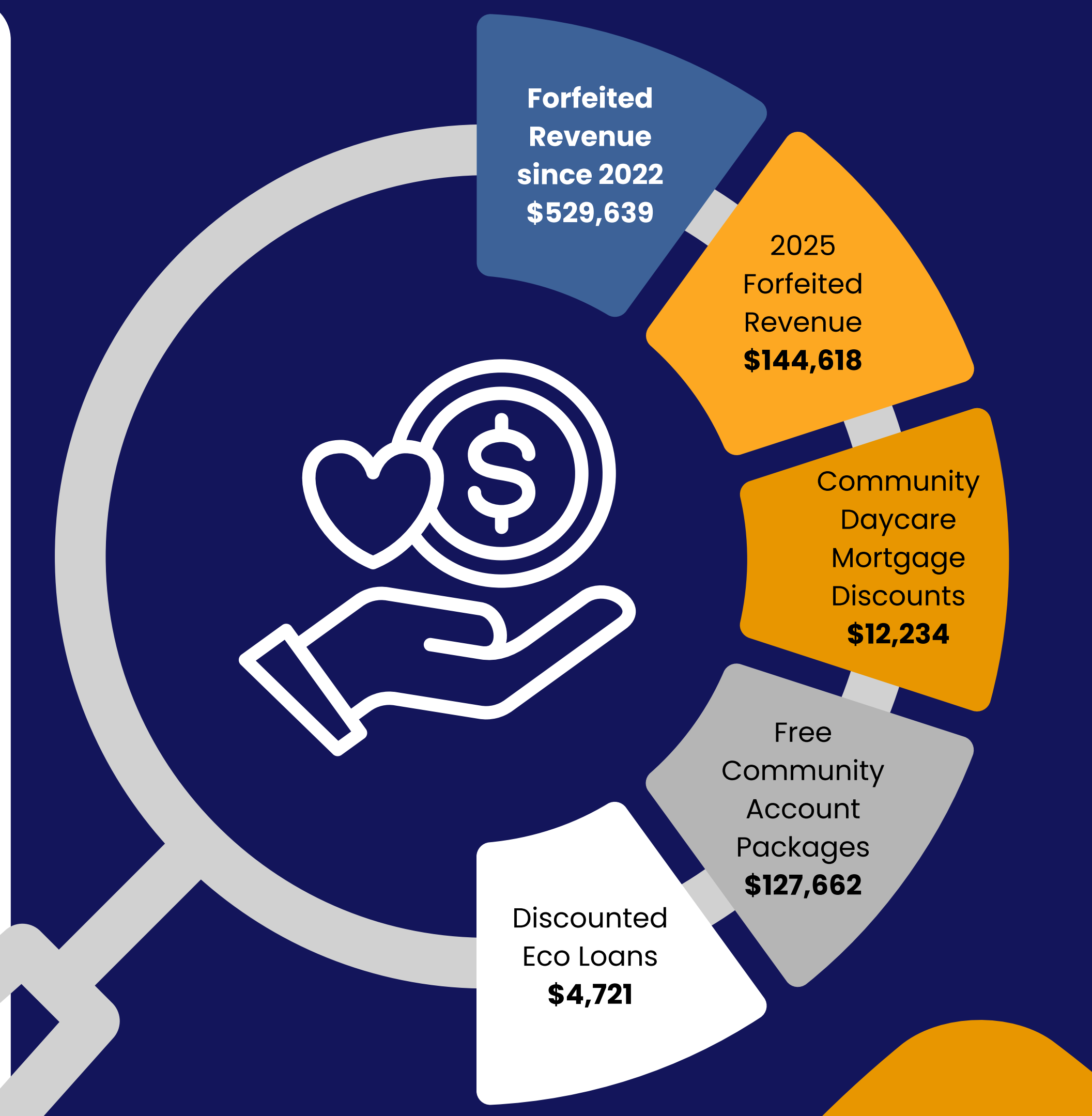
Total Coats Purchased



Forfeited Revenue

Part of AECU's commitment to community impact is reflected not only in what we give back, but in what we choose not to take. By foregoing revenue in key areas, we help ensure more resources remain with the people, organizations, and initiatives that strengthen our communities.

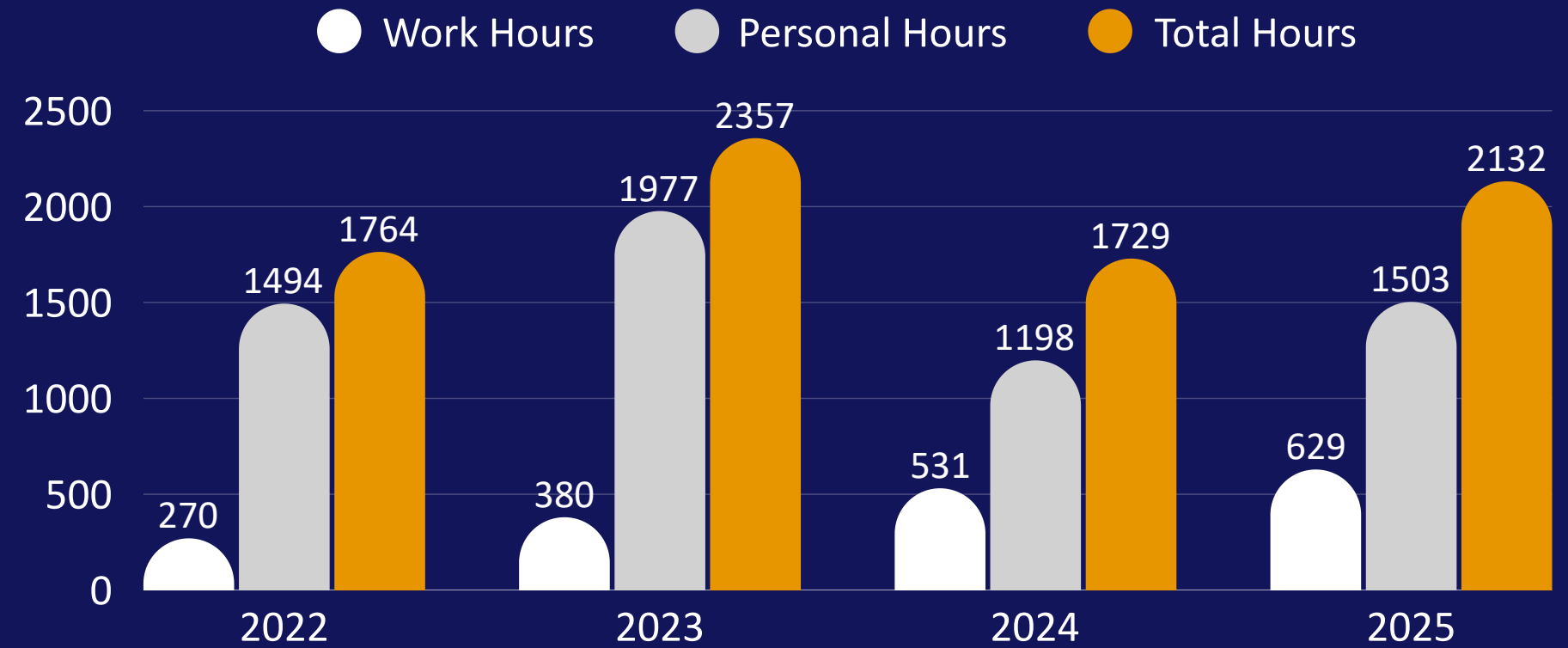
Through free Community Account Packages, AECU supports local nonprofits, charities, and community organizations by reducing everyday banking costs—allowing more funds to be directed toward programs and services. We also offer discounted Eco Loans to help members finance environmentally friendly home upgrades and hybrid or electric vehicles, supporting both affordability and sustainability. In addition, AECU provides discounted mortgage rates to multiple community daycare centres, helping ensure resources stay focused on creating safe, supportive spaces where children can thrive.



Employee Volunteerism

In keeping with our co-operative social responsibility, AECU is committed to enriching our communities through employee volunteering. Throughout the year, staff are encouraged to volunteer with recognized charities and community organizations, sharing their time, skills, and expertise in support of local needs.

AECU employees proudly volunteer both during work hours and on their own time, reflecting the strong alignment between staff values and our purpose. To support, track, and strengthen this work, AECU uses the *Do Some Good* platform to integrate and measure volunteer activity and broader community impact efforts. Through these combined efforts, staff contribute a significant number of volunteer hours each year, strengthening communities while also building leadership skills and deeper community connections.



*Since 2022, based on average wages of \$24/hour



Each One, Teach One Financial Literacy

Atlantic Edge Credit Union is proud to participate in *Each One, Teach One*, a national, credit-union-led financial literacy program focused on building financial knowledge, skills, and confidence in communities across Canada. Through this program, over 20 volunteer AECU staff support accessible, practical financial education that helps individuals make informed decisions at every stage of life.

Each One, Teach One is aligned with Canada's National Financial Literacy Strategy and is recognized as an official adopter through the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada. By delivering and embedding financial education across our communities, AECU reinforces the co-operative belief that knowledge shared strengthens everyone.



Alongside our in-person sessions, virtual presentations delivered through community partners have been a particularly successful way to engage eager learners and overcome geographic barriers.



In 2025,
19 EOTO sessions
were held...

... supporting
and educating
544 attendees!

Scholarships

Atlantic Edge Credit Union's annual Scholarship Program invests in the future of our communities by supporting local students pursuing post-secondary education. Each year, \$8,000 in scholarships are awarded to students who demonstrate academic achievement, community involvement, and a commitment to good citizenship, reflecting the co-operative values that guide our work.

Grounded in the principle of *Each One, Teach One*, the program goes beyond financial support. As part of the application process, all applicants participate in a financial literacy session, ensuring every student gains practical skills to confidently manage education costs and future finances, regardless of whether they receive a scholarship. Through this program, AECU is proud to empower students, support families, and help build stronger communities.



Scholarship Winner Testimonials

“

Nursing is important for me because it not only assists in our province's society and medical development well, but is also a stepping stone to potentially becoming an MD. This scholarship will positively impact my education because it will allow me to focus more of my time on becoming certified and a more effective nurse, and not to worry about the finances of my study.

JULIAN FLYNN ”

“

This scholarship will help me pursue my dreams of being a teacher, which will have an impact on the future generations. It will also put my mind at ease with the costs of education and allow me to focus on school. I believe the AECU scholarship program is a wonderful opportunity to help aid students in their learning journey. I myself am extremely grateful to be involved with this program.

CHARLOTTE PARSONS ”

“

This scholarship will be a huge help towards achieving my academic goals. I would like to thank the AECU scholarship program for providing students like myself with opportunities for success. I am also very grateful for the knowledge I have gained from the informative financial literacy sessions.

AMBER ERNST ”

“

I'm truly grateful for the opportunity to be given this AECU scholarship. As someone who values hard work, community, and helping others, I see this scholarship as more than just financial support. This is encouragement to keep pushing toward my goals... Thank you for supporting students like me and for investing in the future of our communities.

KALEB COOK ”

“

In the future I would like to have a career in the medical field so that I can continue to help others while enjoying learning and practicing science. This scholarship will provide me with financial support so that I can continue to volunteer without worrying about falling behind on school work due to working to pay for university. Thank you so much for selecting me as one of this year's recipients!

SARAH RYAN ”



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Community Grant Program

Helping to improve financial resilience and inclusion, grow the sustainable economy, grow the co-operative movement, and collaborate with other organizations.

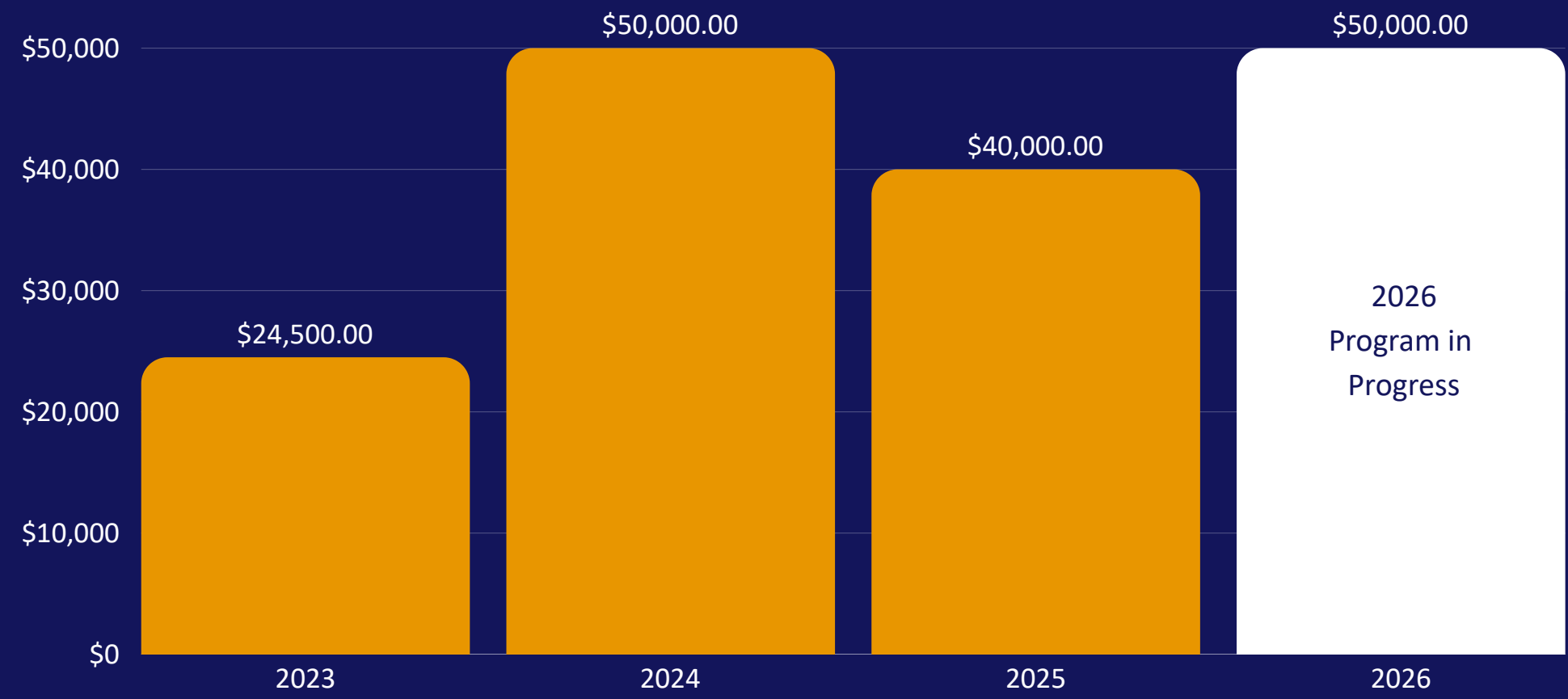
Community Grant Program

Originally launched in 2023, the Community Grant Program has since evolved to focus on deeper, more sustainable community investment that advances financial resilience and inclusion, supports a growing sustainable economy, and strengthens the co-operative spirit of collaboration. After awarding 15 smaller grants in its first year, the program was intentionally refined to support a small number of recipients with higher-value funding.

In 2025, five organizations were awarded grants of \$8,000 each, enabling partners to scale their work, collaborate more effectively, and deliver stronger, longer-lasting outcomes. The program has reached a new level of maturity, marked by high engagement, impactful projects, and strong reporting. The following highlights showcase the powerful, community-led work supported by this program in 2025.



Annual Grant Impact



Expertise Hub Co-operative

Project: Co-operative Inclusion Lab
Mount Pearl, NL

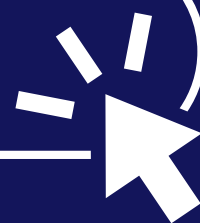
This initiative supports immigrants and underrepresented groups in forming co-operatives by providing culturally appropriate incubation, mentorship, and training. Activities include workshops, peer circles, and governance training, delivered in partnership with key organizations.

Impact:

- Empowers immigrants to create viable, values-driven co-operatives
- Over 25 immigrant professionals supported in paid work, 400+ participants engaged
- Culturally responsive and immigrant-led programming



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Killick Ecovillage Co-operative

Project: Regenerative Agriculture Community Farming

Portugal Cove-St. Philips, NL

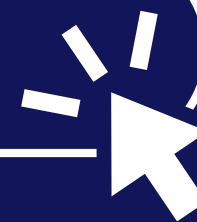
Killick Ecovillage is a 51-unit, mixed-income, intergenerational co-operative housing community in development on heritage farmland. Residents will self-manage the community and permaculture farm, using an innovative tenure model that prioritizes climate resilience, affordability, and accessibility.

Impact:

- Adapts a UK co-operative housing model for NL, enabling mixed-income and intergenerational living
- Designed and managed by future residents for deep engagement
- Integrates sustainability, universal design, and participatory governance
- Serves as a replicable model for affordable housing and co-operative innovation



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Dorset Collegiate

Project: Next Chapter: Community Skillshare *Pilley's Island, NL*

A weekly skill-sharing program connects students, teachers, and residents of all ages through workshops in technology (3D printing, coding, multimedia) and the arts (music, fibre arts, pottery, visual arts). The school acts as a hub, partnering with local councils and organizations to maximize inclusivity.

Impact:

- Supports skill development and social connection for youth, adults, and seniors
- Provides vital learning opportunities in a rural area with limited programming
- Bridges generations and strengthens community resilience

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Rec House Community Youth Network

Project: Grandfriends

Port aux Basques, NL

'Grandfriends' bridges generations by connecting youth and seniors through regular activities such as craft nights, self-care afternoons, tea parties, cultural events, cooking, music, dance, and games. The program aims to reduce social isolation, foster mentorship, and celebrate cultural heritage, with strong support from local partners.

Impact:

- Reduces isolation and builds empathy, leadership, and communication skills in youth
- Inclusive and community-driven, supported by multiple organizations
- Responds to the needs of an aging population



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Mary's Harbour Recreation Committee

Project: Community Hub Sustainability Project
Mary's Harbour, NL

This project sustains the only dedicated gathering space in the community by hosting major annual events (Fall Fair, Christmas programming, Winter Fest) that foster social cohesion and community pride. Events also serve as key fundraisers for the Recreation Center's ongoing operation.

Impact:

- Strengthens social bonds and preserves vital community infrastructure
- Programming for all ages, fostering intergenerational engagement
- Led by women and Indigenous community members





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Contact Us



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Thank You