

THE POLITICAL IMPACT

on Girl and Gender–Expansive
Youth–Serving Organizations

INTRODUCTION

This is a pivotal moment of crisis for organizations serving girls and gender-expansive youth. These organizations are not merely service providers — they are support systems, lifelines, sanctuaries, and catalysts for social change. Yet today, with 91% facing funding uncertainty and safety emerging as the top concern for 82% of organizations, they are operating at the intersection of multiple rights under attack.

In the wake of the 2024 election, these organizations are contending with new and heightened threats: regressive policies, rising disinformation, public attacks, and substantial funding cuts. Gender-affirming healthcare is being stripped away, legal protections like Title IX are eroding, and youth are being targeted — especially those at the intersections of race, gender, immigration, low socio-economic status, and disability.

**“We are not stepping back an inch.
If we do, we become complicit.”**

– Nonprofit Director

While many systems have retreated, organizations serving girls and gender-expansive youth remain on the frontlines. And they are turning to one another, revitalizing networks forged in past crises and times of divestment. This renewed focus on coalition-

building demonstrates that our collective power remains our greatest asset — when we stand together, our resilience and innovation grow exponentially.

This report outlines the urgent realities facing the girl and gender-expansive youth-serving sector in California. Drawing from Alliance for Girls¹ rapid response survey and expert interviews that reached 73 people representing 63 organizations, we outline the structural threats confronting this ecosystem and the community-driven solutions emerging in response.

The question is not whether we can afford to invest in this culture of care during uncertain times, but whether we can afford not to. The cost of inaction — allowing hard-won progress to unravel and the abandonment of generations of young people — is too great to calculate. This report is Alliance for Girls’ first offering — a call to attention, solidarity, and action.

¹ “Girls and gender-expansive youth” refers to cis girls, trans girls, non-binary youth, gender non-conforming youth, gender queer youth and any girl-identified youth.

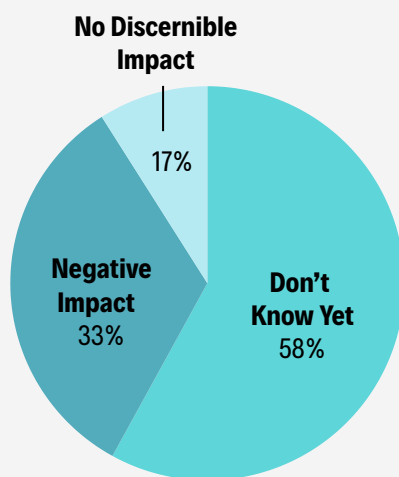
KEY TAKEAWAYS

Organizations serving girls and gender-expansive youth are caught in a triple bind — their services are urgently needed by the populations they serve, yet they are unsure which programs they can legally offer, and they are facing uncertainty about whether they will have the funding to support their work.

91%

of organizations may or are already facing an impact to their funding.

“To what extent does the current election environment impact your organization’s funding, if at all?”

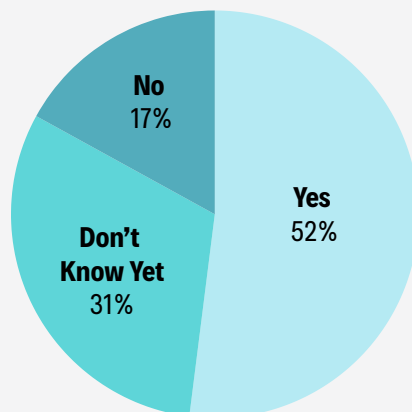


Source: 2025 Alliance for Girls' Political Impact on Organizations Survey, n = 64.

83%

of organizations say they may or are already facing policy restrictions.

“Does your organization face potential policy impacts that may create restrictions to how/where your organization can work?”



Source: 2025 Alliance for Girls' Political Impact on Organizations Survey, n = 64.

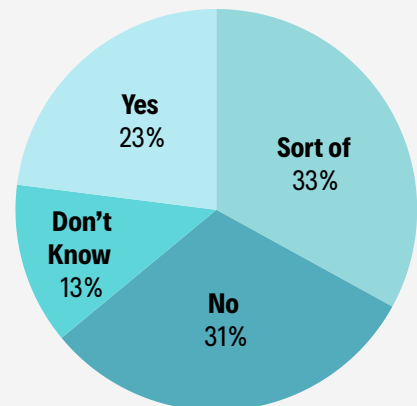
Over

64%

of organizations say that they don't have enough information about the political environment and its impact.

"Do you feel you/your organization has enough information about the 2024 November election and the changing political environment, and its impact on your organization?"

Source: 2025 Alliance for Girls' Political Impact on Organizations Survey, n = 64.



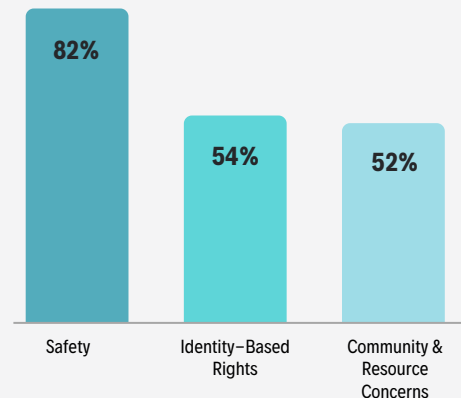
More than

8 in 10

organizations prioritize safety for their girls and gender-expansive youth.

"What are your primary concerns for girls and gender-expansive youth in the next 6–12 months?"

Source: 2025 Alliance for Girls' Political Impact on Organizations Survey, n = 58.



"You need to know enough to know what's going on, but not so much that you become paralyzed. We support our team to figure out what balance works for each individual."

– Nonprofit Director

"I've unfortunately been telling youth they won't be able to update gender markers on passports. Youth are visibly upset when they learn this news. I feel like I need a mental health clinician with me when delivering this information."

– Legal Advisor

Even in progressive states like California, critical gaps remain: "Many youth are on federally regulated health plans not subject to California law," leaving them exposed despite state-level protections.

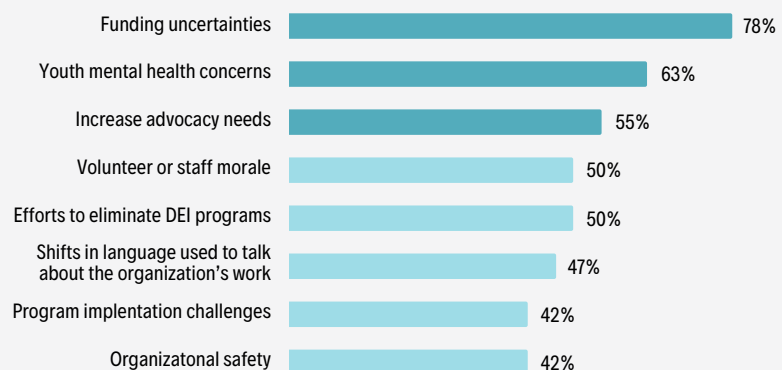
– Legal Advocate

HOW ORGANIZATIONS ARE RESPONDING

Despite these challenges, organizations are not retreating. Instead, they're adapting and continuing to implement strategies that support how the organization functions and the young people they serve, centering community, collaboration, and care.

More than
half
of respondent
organizations are
preparing for more
funding uncertainties,
youth mental health
concerns, and increased
advocacy needs.

"Following the current election environment, what are specific areas of impact your organization is preparing for?" (Note: This question allowed for respondents to select all that applied to their organization.)



Source: 2025 Alliance for Girls' Political Impact on Organizations Survey, n = 64.

Organizations are now
primarily supporting
young people by
providing **safe spaces**
and **leadership**
development.

"Following the current election environment, what strategies/resources has your organization used/are currently using to support girls and gender-expansive youth?" (Note: This question allowed for respondents to select all that applied to their organization.)



Source: 2025 Alliance for Girls' Political Impact on Organizations Survey, n = 62.

Organizations are uplifting lessons learned from past national and global events and crises, noting that community partnerships and shared resources build resilience during challenging times.

Organizations highlighted the importance of:

- **Strengthened community partnerships**
- **Providing mental health resources, both to staff and to young people**
- **Understanding and sharing accurate information**
- **Staying grounded in and committed to the organization's mission**

As one director shared: “In 2020, we launched a youth emergency fund that provides direct cash disbursements to young people and their families experiencing any type of emergency... And we're continuing to fundraise to maintain the funds beyond COVID-19, because..we know that with the loss of all the safety gaps that have already been threatened or put on hold, that those needs are going to continue to expand, and so we also expanded the use of the fund to include legal and immigration supports.”

“Honestly, community support has been crucial. A few things happened during this time: folks wanted to be together, share resources and network; coalitions strengthened, and we became adaptable to changing circumstances rather quickly.”

– Foundation Director

CALL TO ACTION FOR FUNDERS AND DONORS

“When it comes to philanthropy, it's all the more important to fund the collaboration and resiliency among organizations... How do we continue to invest in collaborative funds so that we're shoring each other up?”

– Foundation Director

In this defining moment, funder and donor support can make a significant difference in the lives of girls and gender-expansive youth:

1.

Provide flexible, unrestricted funding allowing nimble responses to emerging needs.

2.

Make multi-year commitments, providing stability during uncertainty.

3.

Work with existing grantees to create a transition/phase-out plan that includes connecting them to other potential funders when a reduction of funding is expected or funding strategies change.

4.

Support collaborative initiatives that strengthen the eco-system of organizations serving girls and gender-expansive youth. Fund networks, coalitions, and resource-sharing platforms that maximize impact through collective action.

5.

Invest in mental health and wellness resources for both young people and staff of youth-serving organizations.

6.

Fund advocacy and movement-building that protects vulnerable young people, particularly people of color.

7.

Invest in intersectional research that centers youth to understand the impact of this moment from their perspectives. This research should reveal the often overlooked needs of this community and how to better serve them.

8.

Establish rapid response funds to meet urgent moments head-on — whether confronting harmful policy threats, responding to natural disasters, or seizing time-sensitive opportunities to protect and uplift girls and gender-expansive youth.

9.

Support grantees' communications capacity and efforts to help them effectively tell their stories and share their impact.

10.

Support legal services and know-your-rights education to help organizations and communities navigate complex systems.

CALL TO ACTION FOR YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATIONS

"We reconvened our ... community cares call, originally formed during COVID-19, bringing together government agencies, organizing groups, service providers, educators, and community members for a collective response."

– Nonprofit Director

While this moment can feel chaotic, unstable, and full of uncertainty, as youth-serving organizations, we have communities, tools, and strategies we can tap into to continue building the future we and our young people dream of:

1.

Share this research with your funders and donors to uplift the real impacts of the current political and funding environments on your organization and your girls and gender-expansive youth, and call your funders to action with the recommendations listed above.

2.

Engage in collaborative spaces, coalitions, and alliances that bring different organizations and community leaders together, like the [Girls @ the Margins Alliance](#), [Alliance for Girls](#), [Stop AAPI Hate](#), [South Bay Coalition to End Human Trafficking](#), among many others. We are stronger together.

3.

Check out Alliance for Girls' resource guides, intended to support California youth and the organizations that support them. The guides were curated by Alliance for Girls and its member organizations to meet this moment, and will be updated twice a year.

4.

Continue to listen and lead with the experiences and voices of girls and gender-expansive youth. Work with young people to honor their needs and cultivate conditions for safety, healthy relationships, and wellness.

5.

Check in regularly with staff to support their wellness and mental health, particularly for staff of color and gender-expansive staff.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Alliance for Girls (AFG) is an Oakland-based nonprofit that is creating an imagined community² where girls and gender-expansive youth, especially those of color, are valued, respected, and safe. It is the largest alliance of girl and gender-expansive youth-serving organizations and leaders in California, whose membership includes 120+ organizations serving more than 300,000 girls and gender-expansive youth across the San Francisco Bay Area and Los Angeles County. Through youth-led research, storytelling, and collective advocacy, AFG is facilitating generative change with and for girls and gender-expansive youth and the organizations that serve them.

Alliance for Girls would like to thank the girls, gender-expansive youth, and staff of youth-serving organizations who shared their stories, expertise, insights, and recommendations in the Political Impact Survey. Without them, this report and effort would not exist.

We would also like to thank the members, funders, and community leaders we interviewed for providing guidance and actionable information for girls, gender-expansive youth, and the communities that support them.

² "Imagined Communities" is an influential concept drawn from Chandra Mohanty's scholarship. It challenges dominant and oppressive universal truths that often erase or distort marginalized communities. An Imagined Community is one that starts by collectively gathering knowledge and sharing it for the benefit of all. It aligns and brings together coalitions and solidarities among women* of diverse communities and identities, transcending borders and conceptualizing power as fluid and evolving.



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FOR **GIRLS**

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