



2022 IMPACT REPORT

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Message from the Director

Autism now affects 1 in 26 children in California - over 19,000 individuals and over 60,000 family members live with Autism in the Inland Empire.

2023 marks the 36th anniversary of the Autism Society Inland Empire. For over three decades, the Autism Society Inland Empire has been transforming the local and state landscape of services for people with Autism by strategically designing and launching innovative initiatives. Our team is focused on quality-of-life areas that promote a meaningful impact on autistic adults and their families in four key areas: social, safety, work, and well-being.

Each day we make meaningful changes in the lives of our families in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. We work to ensure everyone in our community feels safe, respected, and valued and has opportunities to live a quality life.

We are fiercely committed to changing the paradigm of how individuals with Autism thrive throughout their lives. We are doing whatever it takes to make the world better, more inclusive, and more equitable.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beth Burt".

Beth Burt
Executive Director



WE'RE ON A MISSION

We create connections, empowering everyone in our local Autism community with the resources needed to live fully.





Autism Society Inland Empire Staff



Beth Burt
Executive Director



Clara Garcia
Director of Programs



Arman Khodaei
Education Specialist 1



Melissa Cardona
Senior Resource Specialist



Anel Ibarra
Program Coordinator



Julie Price
Social Media



Flora Martinez
Education Specialist 2



Liliana Alvarado
Resource Specialist



Juanita Hernandez
Program Specialist



Jenn Elliott
Bookkeeper



TBD
Resource Specialist



Virginia Sosa
Program Coordinator



OUR WORK - HOW WE HELP OUR COMMUNITY

The Autism Society Inland Empire supports the Autism community through a variety of initiatives





"The Autism Society Inland Empire helped me as I came to the realization I had undiagnosed Autism at 50+ years old. I had been misdiagnosed, medicated, and felt lacking throughout my life. It was a huge moment of "a-ha" and even relief. I was able to meet others diagnosed later in life, and make a friend, (Which is difficult for me.) The Toolkit was EXTREMELY helpful and I love that you lift up the voices of "Actually Autistic" individuals sharing their articles and blogs."



"I love the Autism Society Inland Empire's family events. It was a safe space to take families from a dark place to a place where they can have fun just like any other family."

FY22 FINANCIALS

+ 33%

Increase in revenue in 2022 from 2021.

+ \$88,963k

Change in Net Assets

\$250k

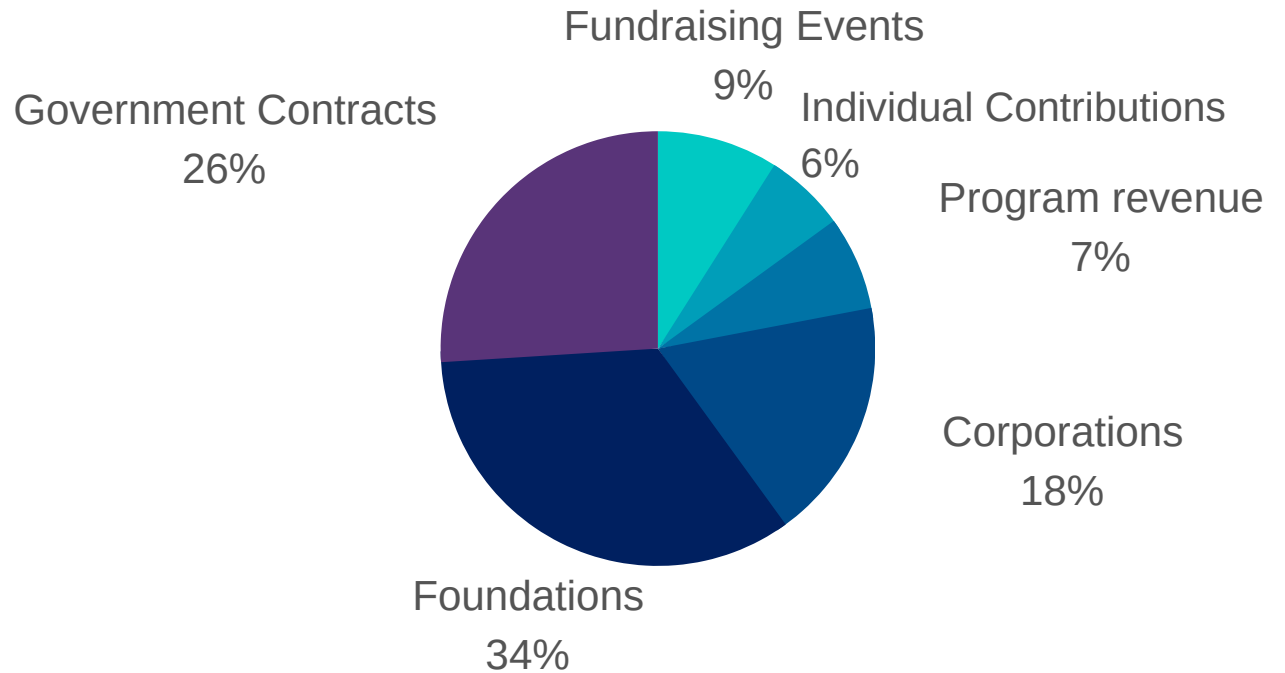
Held in reserves

85%

of expenses went to programs

Over 480 people volunteered over 3,000 hours

Revenue: \$772k



Expenses: \$683k



Resource & Referrals

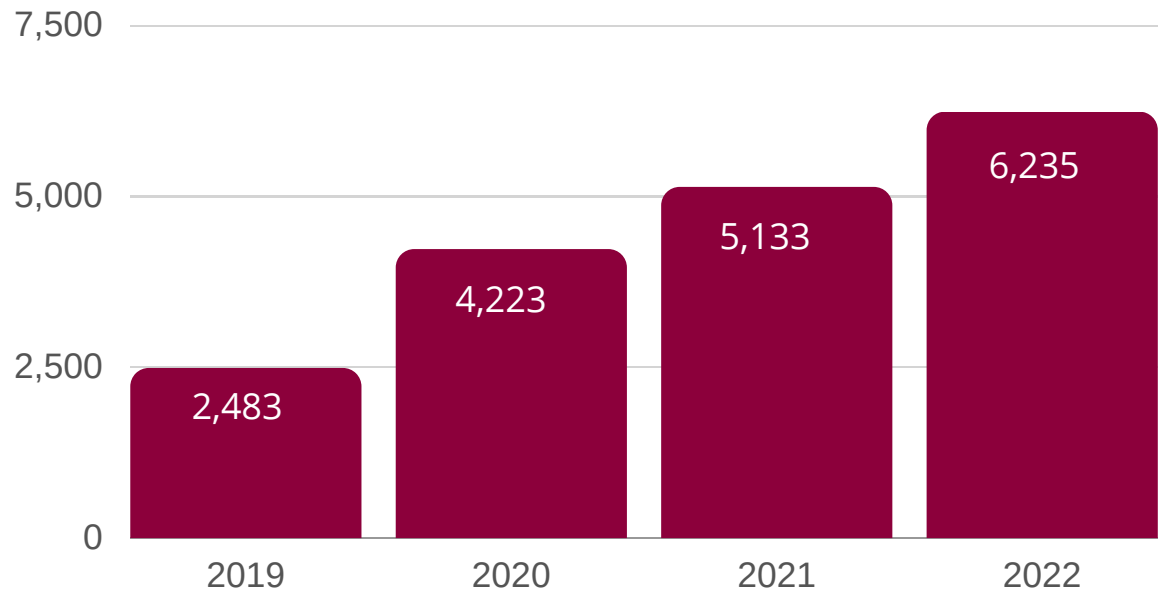
In 2023, our Resource Specialists answered 6,235 calls, emails, and social media requests. These are families new to Autism starting to navigate systems are looking for help. In 2022, we continued to see an increase of individuals in crisis - homelessness, law enforcement or CFS being called, or extreme behavior in the home.

Our Resource Specialists were there and spent the time it took to resolve the issues - sometimes hours for one family.

+22%

Increase in calls since 2021

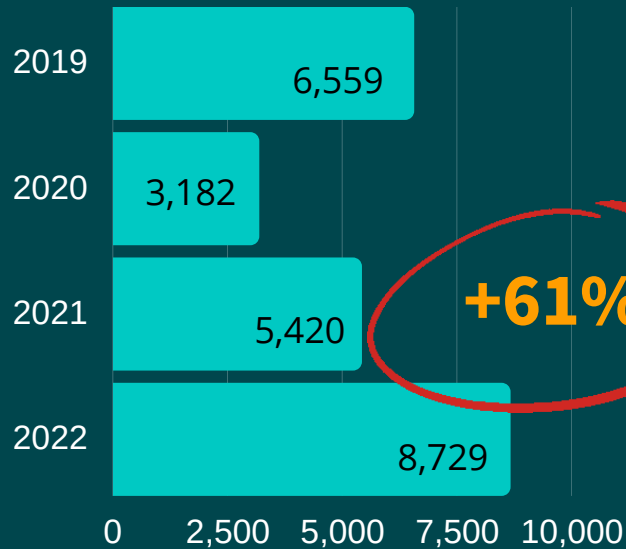
Growth in Resource Calls



Social Programs

2022 was a record year in attendance. Autism Society Inland Empire hosted over 200 events from Halloween parties, Holiday parties, bowling, movies, swimming, Jump Nights, Art classes, Meet up for teens and adults, the Awesome Adult reunion and more!

Growth in Our Social Rec Programs



Education & Outreach

276

First Responders
trained

7

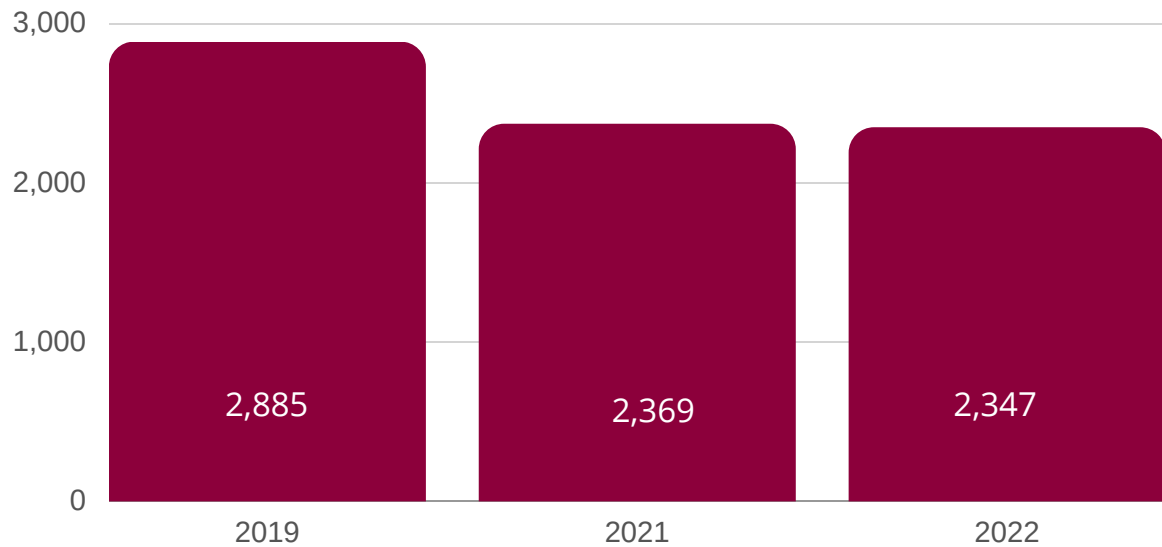
Toolkits created in 2022:
Bullying, AAC, Halloween,
IEP Tips, Housing, Mental
Health Resources and
Diagnosticians

4,868

people attended an
outreach event.

of People Who Attended Educational Presentation

Either in person or through our recorded webinars



Advocacy

Everyone deserves to live fully. At the core of the Autism Society's work is our goal to influence meaningful change in support of the Autism community.

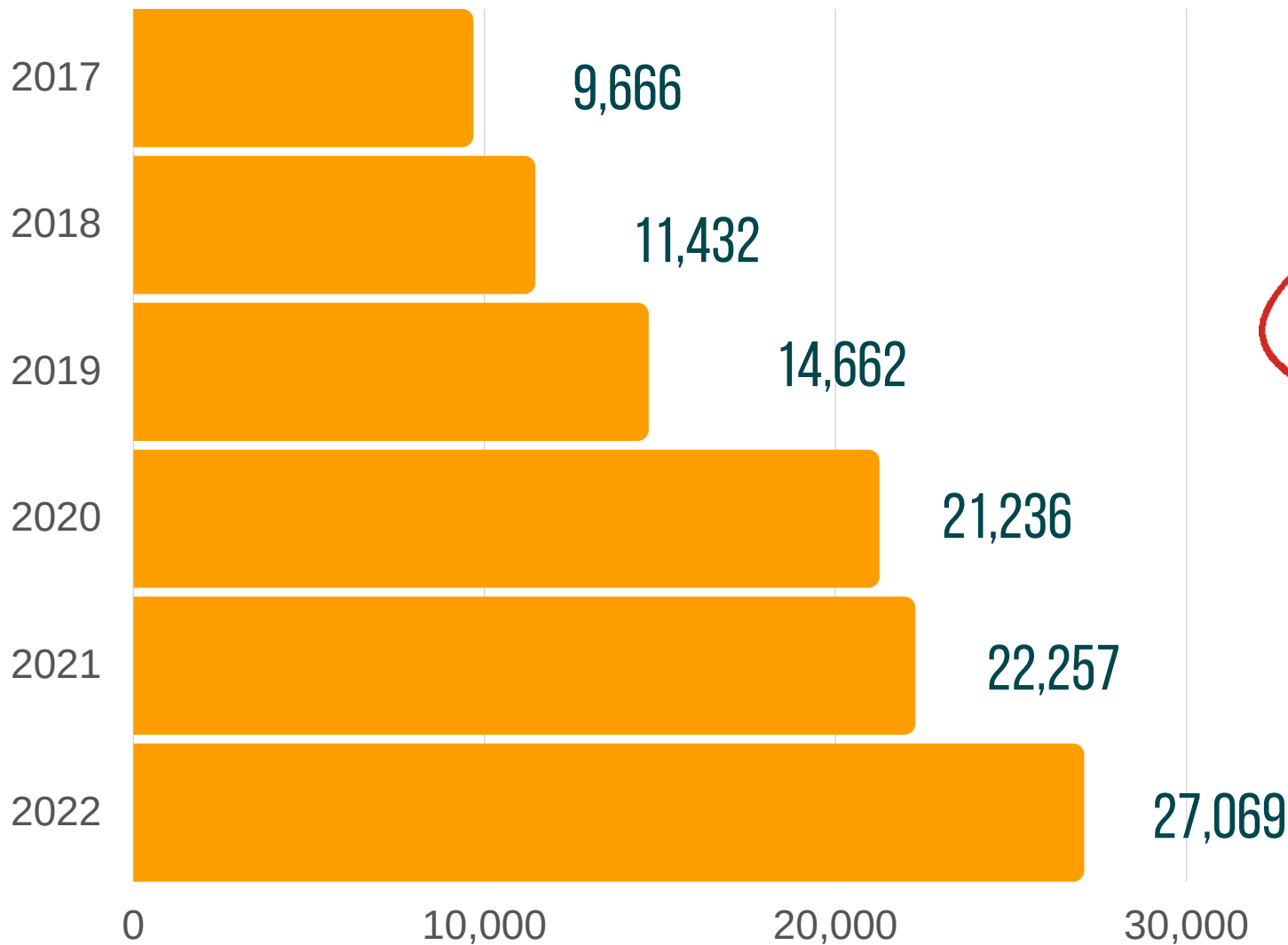
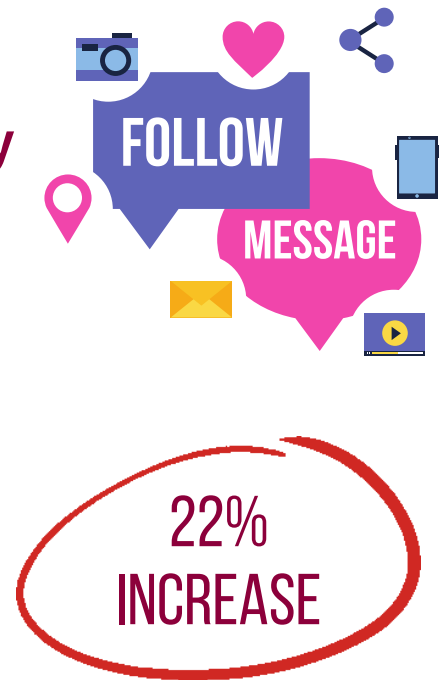
Our community, like the rest of society focused on re-integrating after COVID. The workforce shortage had a critical impact on our community creating issues with not enough staff in special education, respite and day services, being able to assess medical professionals for a new diagnosis and medical treatment. The Autism Society Inland Empire continued to lead a advocacy's efforts and collaborate with other disability organizations to address:

- Need for new and innovative programs to address the unmet needs of our community
- Surveyed over 1,000 families and published a report on the disparity issuers in special education.
- Faciliated two focus groups with DDS on the implementation of social recreation services
- Focus group and report on the need for crisis services for families who have children and adults with severe behavior
- Attended countless state workgroup meetings and gave public input on a variety of issues including those on behavioral health, employment, safety net services, new Regional Center Performance Measures an Purchase of Services disparities.



Reach Into the Community

Autism Society Inland Empire Social Media Community



includes Facebook page, Facebook group, Linked In, Twitter, Instagram and email list

Our Initiatives: Access for the Latino and Spanish Speaking Communities

CLASE Community of Practice

The Autism Society Inland Empire developed and facilitates the Colaboración, Liderazgo, Abogacía, Servicio y Educación (CLASE) Community of Practice. Funded by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), CLASE is a Community of Practice for leaders of groups and non-profit organizations that serve Hispanic and Spanish-speaking individuals and families with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) here in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

Educational Equity

Educational equity incorporates ideas of access, opportunity, and need. Students with Autism or Intellectual Disabilities make up 21% of the special education population, yet little is known about this community's issues. Thanks to the Inland Empire Community Foundation for their generosity in funding this project to gather this data. Over 1200 parents living in the Inland Empire participated in the project.

PEERSTM

PEERS (Program for the Education and Enrichment of Relational Skills) is an evidence-based social skills program for motivated youth interested in learning new ways of making and keeping friends. Thanks to the RAP Foundation, this program was offered to teens and adults in the Coachella Valley with Spanish language interpretation available.



Closing the Equity Gaps for Students with Autism & Intellectual Disabilities in the Inland Empire



April 2022

ieautism.org

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Our Initiatives: Law Enforcement and Safety Training

In 2022, thanks to the generous donations from American Express and Make Waves Foundation, the Autism Society Inland Empire trained 276 First Responders, up from 197 from the previous year.

The 276 First Responders represented 37 different agencies in Riverside and Orange County.

Participants attended a two-hour class designed for EMS/Fire/Theme Parks or a four-hour course on de-escalation for Law Enforcement.

Agencies Who Attended Our Training in 2022:

- Anaheim Fire & Rescue
- Buena Park Police Dept,
- CA Highway Patrol
- CBAT / Hemet RSO
- CBAT / Lake Elsinore
- CBAT Jurupa Valley Station
- Costa Mesa PD
- Disneyland Emergency Support Services
- Disneyland Guest Health Services
- FBI
- Fountain Valley PD
- Garden Grove PD
- Hoag Hospital
- Indio PD
- Irvine PD
- Knott's Berry Farm Training
- Laguna Beach Police Department
- Los Angeles Airport
- Menifee PD
- Orange County Intelligence Assessment Center (OCIAC)
- Orange County District Attorney's Office
- Orange County Fire Authority
- Orange County Jail
- Orange County Parks
- Orange County Probation
- Orange County Sheriff
- Riverside Co Sheriff
- RSO / Hemet
- RSO / Jurupa Valley Station
- RSO / Moreno Valley
- RSO / Temecula (SWest Station)
- RUHS - BH / Indio Police
- RUHS - CBAT
- UC Irvine Police Department
- US Dept Homeland Security/TSA
- West Anaheim Medical Center
- Westminster PD



Safety on the Spectrum™ Communication Toolkit



Autism Society of America
www.autismsociety.org
info@autism-society.org
1 (800) 328-8476

Autism Society Inland Empire
www.ieautism.org
info@ieautism.org
951-220-6922

This project was made possible
in part by the generous gift by:
ABILITY CENTRAL



Our Initiatives: Equity for Alternative Communication Users

Everyone has a right to communicate. Especially in an emergency situation, all of our community needs to have a voice.

With the help of the Ability Central, SymbolStix, and our workgroup of AAC users, family members and professionals, the Autism Society Inland Empire was able to create a low-tech Communication Toolkit. Over 1500 were distributed to First Responders, Department of Social Services Disaster Services for Mass Care and Sheltering efforts, and family members.



Our Initiatives: Remote Employment and Day Services

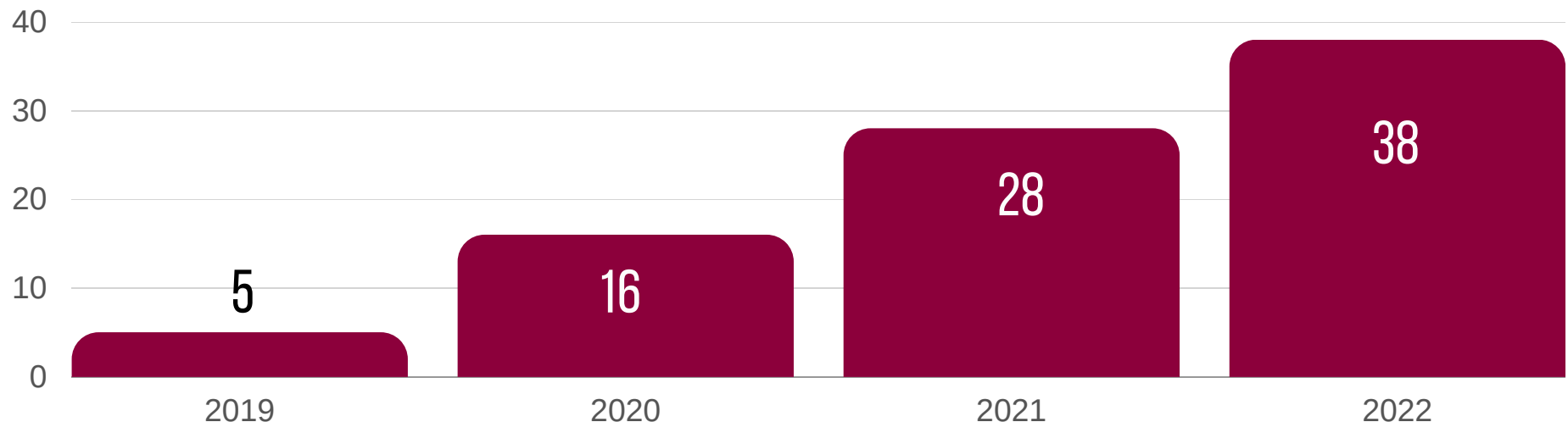
The Autism Society of California's 2018 Survey showed:

- 51% of adults with Autism have had little or no job exploration
- Only 35% of adults know what kind of job they want
- 32% can identify what type of accommodations they might need

The Autism Society Inland Empire offers paid and unpaid opportunities for adults with Autism and developmental disabilities to explore different types of employment. We have a speaker's bureau for public speaking opportunities, volunteer opportunities at our large events, our Marketplace - free space at our Walks and Holiday parties for those interested in self-employment, and the new Remote Employment Program, which we have partnered with Daivergent to explore over then different careers in the field of remote employment.

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job exploration opportunities for adults on the spectrum





LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023

Here are some of our goals for 2023. It will be our biggest year yet!

- **Access to a Diagnosis & Early Intervention**

Outreach campaign for marginalized communities on Early Start services and increasing knowledge of medical professionals, pre-school/childcare facilities, and families/caregivers for appropriate diagnoses, treatment, resources.

- **Leadership Classes for Adults on the Spectrum**

15 Inland Regional Center BIPOC community members will have the opportunity to participate in online, in-person, and mentorship training to provide and practice critical advocacy skills and leadership skills, which will increase their ability to advocate for themselves and others in a way that leaves lasting and meaningful change.

- **Improving Recreation & Inclusion Opportunities in the Community**

Recruit at least 20 social recreational programs that can provide services for children/teens/adults ages 3-21 in an integrated service model and train families to navigate to access social recreation services.

- **Expanding Arts Program**

Thanks to the generosity of the Genesis Inspiration Foundation, we will be able to offer a one-week Art Camp for children 8 to 16 yrs and expand our social programs.

- **Remote Employment and Adult Services**

The California Dept of Developmental Services will be funding training and job exploration for twelve adults in 2023 in the area of remote work.

- **First Responder Training and Kits**

We will be seeking additional funding to continue training First Responders on how to communicate successfully, including de-escalation techniques and our Sensory Kits with tools to help.

OUR PARTNERS IN 2022

We could not have done it without you!





**Thank YOU for making
our community a better
place!**