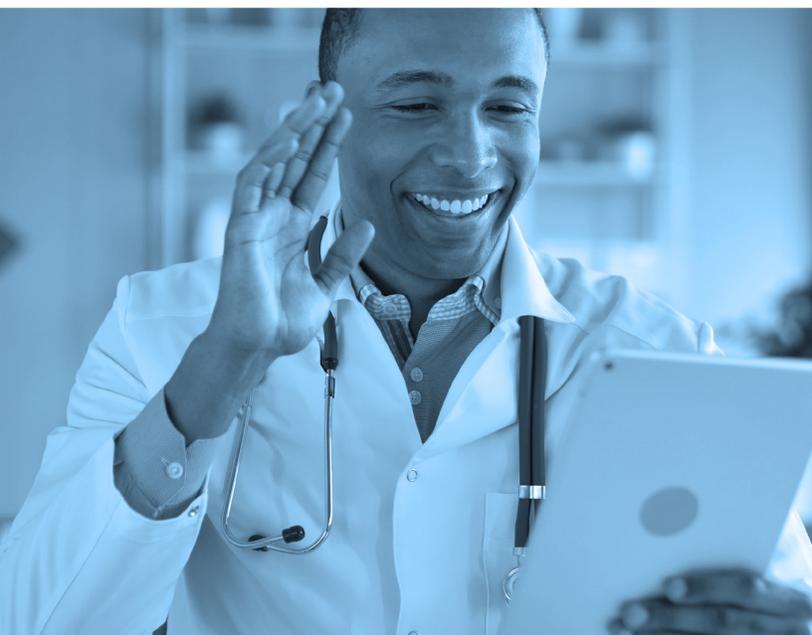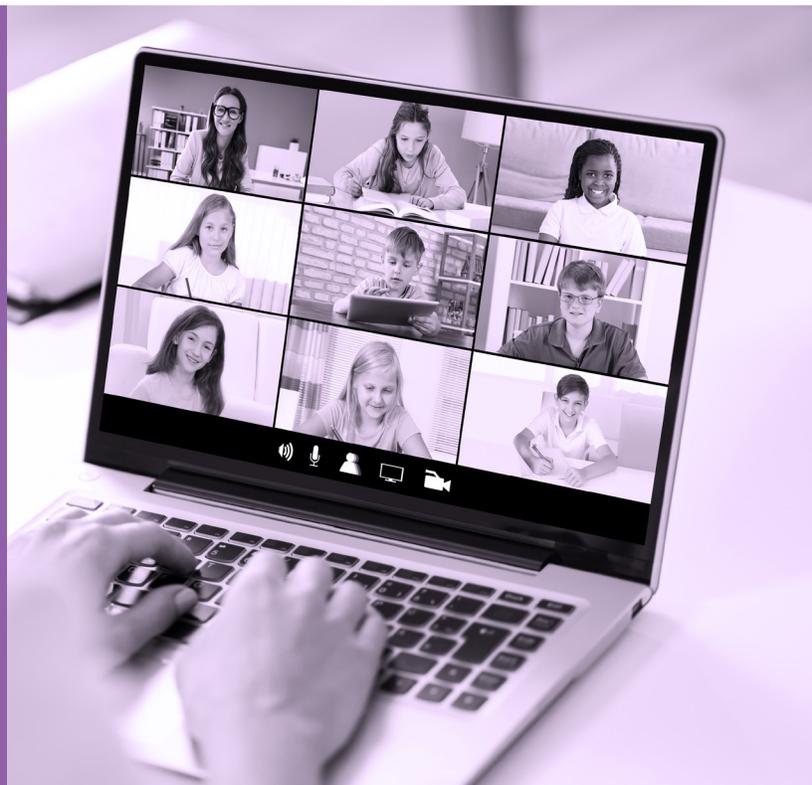# 2020

ANNUAL REPORT

SHLB

SCHOOLS, HEALTH & LIBRARIES
BROADBAND COALITION

Our Mission

"For every anchor institution in the country to have affordable, high-quality broadband that serves the needs of the institution and is open and accessible to the surrounding community."

Hi there! We are the Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband (SHLB) Coalition, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) advocacy organization headquartered in Washington, D.C. Our goal is to close the digital divide by promoting high quality broadband for community anchor institutions (CAIs) like schools, libraries, and healthcare organizations. We believe in building broadband "to and through" anchors as a way to offer low-cost connectivity to the surrounding community.

We're proud to have a strong membership of over 200 organizations from across the country, all of whom support our mission. The diversity of our coalition allows us to make policy recommendations that are commercially-viable, technology-neutral, and (most importantly) effective.

SHLB staff pictured (from left to right): Eric Fredell, Alicja Johnson, Emily Olson, and John Windhausen.

Visit us in cyberspace! We promise we're nice: www.shlb.org | @SHLBCoalition

A WORD FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Dear SHLB Community,

There are no words to capture the full scope of the challenges dealt to us by the COVID-19 virus. After all, you can only say "unprecedented" so many times. The horrific global pandemic has interrupted our lives in immeasurable ways, many of which were impossible to imagine.

For the SHLB Coalition, COVID-19 brought our mission into sharper focus than ever before. Each day, we've seen powerful examples of why every anchor institution and every community needs broadband. Students and teachers shifted to remote learning. Doctors and medical workers ramped up their telehealth offerings. Libraries moved their information services to the cloud. All of these efforts have been crucial to managing the spread of the coronavirus, but they also put a strain on anchor institutions' bandwidth.

It is a shame that, almost 11 years after publication of the National Broadband Plan, some [27 percent of households](#) still do not have adequate internet, either because it is unaffordable or unattainable. Anchors did their best to bring their networks to nearby residents – whether by deploying Wi-Fi-equipped school buses to neighborhoods or propagating wireless signals to their parking lots. Throughout the year, SHLB's advocacy sought to make it easier and more cost-effective for these heroic institutions to increase their bandwidth and reach community-members trapped on the wrong side of the digital divide.

In this report, you'll find that in many ways, we made progress toward that goal. We captured the attention of Congress and the Federal Communications Commission, who adopted many SHLB Coalition recommendations for action to mitigate the crisis. Yet the finish line is still years away. We must continue doing more – anchor institutions must have greater authority to leverage their fiber and wireless technologies to bring broadband to everyone. As we still grapple with the pandemic's impact on healthcare, education, and the economy, millions of people in this nation without connectivity need our assistance. Fortunately, their local anchor institutions are ready to help. And so is SHLB.

Sincerely,

Eric Price Brown
Board Chairman, 2020
SHLB Coalition

John Windhausen Jr.
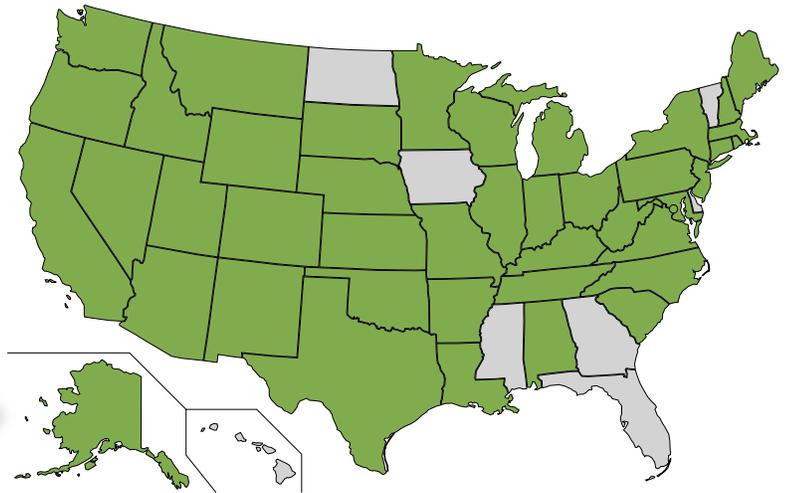Executive Director
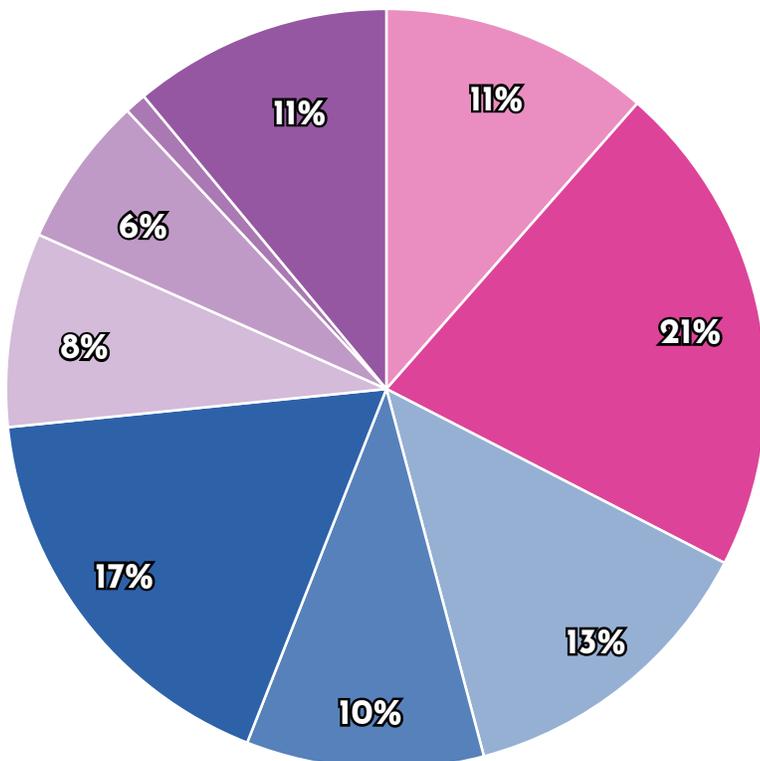SHLB Coalition

Our Members

218
Members

43
States

➔ **100 percent** of members would recommend SHLB membership to another organization.

➔ **95 percent** of members say SHLB membership is as valuable or more valuable than other coalitions.

Membership composition as of December 31, 2020

- 11%
- 21%
- 13%
- 10%
- 17%
- 8%
- 6%
- 11%

- Education Organizations
- Health Organizations
- Library Organizations
- Local or State Dept's
- Public Interest Groups, Foundations
- Public Media
- R&E Networks, Nonprofit Providers
- Commercial Providers
- Consultants, Law Firms

MEET THE COALITION

We welcome the 50 organizations who joined in 2020, recognized below in bold!

A Better Wireless, NISP, LLC | Access Humboldt | ADS Advanced Data Services, Inc. | Adtec, Inc | **Alabama Supercomputer Authority** | Alaska Library Association | Alaska Primary Care Association | Alaska State Library | American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) | American Library Association (ALA) | **Arizona Department of Education** | Arizona State Library | Arkansas e-Link | Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network (AREON) | **Arkansas State Library** | **Asbury Park Free Public Library** | **Association of Public and Land-grant Universities** | Association of Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) | Benton Institute for Broadband & Society | Boston Public Library | Boulder Valley School District | **Brazos Valley Council of Governments** | Broadband Catalysts | Broadband Law Group | Broadband Legal Strategies | **Burkett Engineering Solutions** | Califa | California IT in Education (CITE) | California K12 High Speed Network | **Castleberry Independent School District** | Center for Innovative Technology (CIT) | Central Skagit Sedro-Woolley Library | **Channelford Associates Inc** | **Charter Communications** | Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) | Chippewa Valley Internetworking Consortium | Cisco | Clarity Solutions, Inc. | Colorado Educational Broadband Coalition (CEBC) | Colorado Hospital Association | **Colorado Rural Schools Alliance** | Colorado State Library | Columbus Metropolitan Library | Common Spirit Health | CommScope | Connect Americans Now | Connected Nation | **Connecticut Education Network** | ConnectME Authority | Consortium for School Networking (CoSN) | Conterra Networks | Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC) | Crown Castle | CRW Consulting | CSM Consulting, Inc. | CTC Technology & Energy | Cuyahoga County Public Library | Denver Public Library | EdTechnologyFunds | Education Partners Solution, Inc. | Educational Professional Services | EducationSuperHighway | ELAE Enterprises, LLC | ENA | Epic Communications | eRate 360 Solutions, LLC | **E-Rate And Educational Services, LLC.** | E-Rate Central | E-rate Consulting, Inc. | **E-rate Expertise** | E-Rate Online | E-Rate Provider Services, LLC | E-rate Services, LLC | ESC Region 12 | **Espy Services, Inc.** | Essam Consulting Group LLC | ex2 Technology | Fatbeam, LLC | **Federal Funding Group, LLC** | Free Library of Philadelphia | **Friday Institute for Educational Innovation at North Carolina State University** | Funds for Learning | GCI | GeoLinks | Gigabit Libraries Network | **Great Salt Plains Health Center** | Health Information Exchange of Montana | Healthcare Funding Connection | HealthConnect Networks | **High Desert Education Service District** | Idaho Commission for Libraries | Illinois Telehealth Network (ITN) | Independent Health Network (IHN) | Indiana Rural Health Association | Indiana's Optical Network (I-Light) | Infinity Communications & Consulting, Inc. | Infinium Broadband Services | Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR) | Internet2 | Janice Meyers Educational Consulting | **Jeff Davis County Library** | Johnson County Library | **Kaizen Techpartners** | Kajeet, Inc. | Kansas City Public Library (KCPL) | Kansas Health-e Broadband | **KB & Associates LLC** | Kellogg & Sovereign LLC | Kent County Government | Keystone Initiative for Network Based Education and Research (KINBER) | KS Dept. of Commerce | Lancaster Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13 | Law Office of Rachelle Chong | Libraries of Middlesex Automation Consortium (LMxAC) | Library of Michigan | **Link Oregon** | Lonestar Education and Research Network (LEARN) | Los Angeles Public Library | Merit Network | Microsoft Corporation | Mighty River, LLC | Mobile Beacon | Mobile Citizen | Montana State Library | MOREnet | MuralNet | Nashville Public Library | National Collaborative for Digital Equity | National Digital Inclusion Alliance | Netsync Network Solutions | Network Nebraska | **New America Open Technology Institute** | New England Telehealth Consortium | New Jersey State Library | New Mexico Broadband Program | New Mexico Primary Care Association | New Mexico Telehealth Alliance | New York State Education Research Network (NYSERNet) | Next Century Cities | NM Public School Facilities Authority | North Carolina Research and Education Network (MCNC) | North Carolina Telehealth Network Association (NCTN) | Northampton Community Television | OARNet | Ocean State Higher Education and Administrative Network (OSHEAN) | OCHIN | Oklahoma Corporation Commission | OneNet | On-Tech Consulting, Inc. | Oregon Business Development Department | Pacific Northwest Gigapop | Palmetto Care Connections | Parana River Group LLC | **Pennsylvania Association of Intermediate Units** | **Pennsylvania Mountains Healthcare Resource Development** | Pioneer Broadband | Port of Skagit | **Port of Whitman** | **Pottsboro Area Public Library** | **Prairie STEM** | **Redbud Telecom Consulting** | **Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative Information Technology Network** | San Diego County Library | Sanford/Good Samaritan Society | Schlow Centre Region Library | School of Information: San Jose State University | SERRC | Solix, Inc. | Sonic | Sonoma County Library | **Sound E-rate, Inc** | **South Dakota State Library** | Southern Ohio Health Care Network | **Southern Oregon Education Service District** | **SpectraCorp Technologies Group, Inc.** | State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) | State E-Rate Coordinators Alliance (SECA) | **Stonington Public Schools** | **Student Internet Equity Coalition** | **Sun Corridor Network, The University of Arizona** | Telconnections, Inc. | **Texoma Communications, LLC** | **The ALS Association** | **The Gunston School** | The Quilt | The Seattle Public Library | **ThinkBig Networks, LLC** | **Thundercloud, Inc.** | T-Mobile | Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library | Unite Private Networks, LLC | **Unity Foundation** | University of Alaska | University of Nevada, Reno - Office of Information Technology | University of New Hampshire | **University of Washington, iSchool** | Urban Libraries Council (ULC) | **USF Healthcare Consulting** | Utah Education and Telehealth Network (UETN) | Utah's Governor's Office of Economic Development | Velocity Fiber | Virginia Society for Technology in Education (VSTE) | Voqal | VST Services, LP | WANRack | **Washington College** | Washington Library Association | Washington State Library | Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction | **Washoe County, Nevada** | **Western Governors University** | WhoFi | Wiley Rein LLP | Wisconsin Public instruction | Wyoming State Library | Yavapai County ESA E-Rate | **Ysleta Independent School District** | Zayo Group

Raising Awareness

In 2020, the SHLB Coalition championed community anchor institution broadband needs in **144 news articles**, published across **57 different media outlets**. Click on each logo to read more.

c|net

"As the COVID-19 pandemic spreads, and schools and libraries close across the country, the need to ensure everyone has affordable broadband at home becomes an urgent national priority," said John Windhausen Jr., executive director of the SHLB Coalition. "The FCC can take several steps now to promote hotspot lending programs and allow schools, libraries and telehealth providers to increase their broadband capacity."

THE HILL

A group of 48 health care organizations endorsed the new bill Friday and asked for it to be included in any upcoming round of coronavirus relief. "No healthcare provider should have to cut back on its telemedicine offerings because it doesn't have enough funding for its underlying broadband connection," said John Windhausen Jr.

FAST COMPANY

SHLB estimates that keeping U.S. students connected, including providing devices such as laptops and tablets, will cost over $5.25 billion this school year…Yet the virus has also created a new sense of urgency around closing the digital divide. "We're getting more phone calls than ever before from policymakers," says Windhausen.

REUTERS

"Those students that can't do online learning are falling further behind," said John Windhausen…"It's going to cause a real problem, because the skills that students learn (in class) build off of each other."

EDSCOOP

"We think [the SHLB bill] is a comprehensive proposal to address a real critical need, and we're hoping for bipartisan support because I think members in both parties realize how important education is and they don't want children to be left behind and not to have the opportunity to continue their education despite the existence of this coronavirus," Windhausen said.
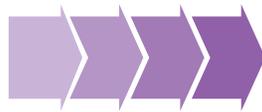
Roll Call

The effects of spending heavily on online learning without investing in network defenses could ultimately place students at even greater risk, according to John Windhausen… [who] also wants the Federal Communications Commission to adopt regulations that would allow schools to use federal subsidies granted through the E-Rate program, which provides low-cost internet access, to upgrade their defense systems.

Taking Action

When the coronavirus pandemic led schools and libraries to close their physical doors, and placed states around the country under "stay-at-home" orders, the SHLB Coalition was one of the first to realize the dire consequences this would have for those without home broadband access. Millions of people on the wrong side of the digital divide couldn't attend school, safely visit their doctor through telemedicine, or even stay informed about the pandemic. **SHLB quickly alerted the Federal Communications Commission of this emergency with a letter, proposing several immediate actions the agency should take.**

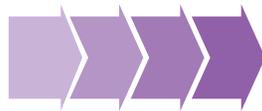SHLB Request: *Fully fund all eligible Rural Health Care (RHC) applications for FY2019.* → **Outcome: FCC fully funds all FY2019 RHC applications.**

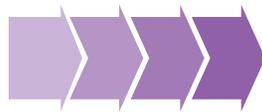SHLB Request: *Give RHC applicants more time to file FY2020 applications.* → **Outcome: FCC extends RHC filing deadline by 61 days.**

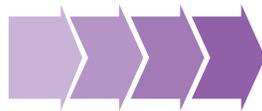SHLB Request: *Let E-rate and RHC recipients accept gifts, like upgraded broadband capacity.* → **Outcome: FCC temporarily waives E-rate, RHC gift rules.**

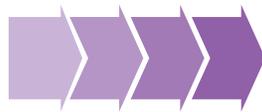SHLB Request: *Let schools, libraries open Wi-Fi to community use without losing E-rate funding.* → **Outcome: FCC clarifies that E-rate networks can stay on for community use in parking lot.**

SHLB Request: *Give schools and libraries more time to apply for E-rate and to implement services.* → **Outcome: FCC extends several key E-rate deadlines.**

SHLB Request: *Start Connected Care pilot early to enable telehealth for low-income patients.* → **Outcome: FCC expedites implementation of Connected Care pilot, two years in the making.**

SHLB Request: *Encourage broadband providers to allow residents to use their Wi-Fi routers.* → **Outcome: FCC establishes Keep Americans Connected Pledge.**

To view the comprehensive list of SHLB's initial COVID-19 policy recommendations, read the letter here.

Taking Action

Fighting for More RHC Dollars

For the past several years, the Rural Health Care (RHC) program has suffered from insufficient funding. SHLB determined in April 2020 that the program needed an additional $2 billion, to be specific. Our team worked with staff from the office of Representative Anna Eshoo (D-Calif.) to develop the Healthcare Broadband Expansion During COVID-19 Act, a bill that would provide this needed funding and take steps to streamline the RHC program's administration. Congresswoman Eshoo introduced the legislation in April, which SHLB led 47 health organizations to endorse. Support for the bill grew quickly, ultimately gaining 28 cosponsors in the House. A month after its initial introduction, Senator Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii) sponsored a Senate version of the proposal.

Remote Learning During COVID-19 Act

Based on Funds For Learning's (FFL) estimation that 7.15 million families lacked home broadband access, SHLB worked with FFL and the State E-rate Coordinators Alliance (SECA) to draft the Remote Learning During COVID-19 Act, legislation that would provide $5.25 billion to close this connectivity gap. The goal: to ensure that no student would be locked out of online learning. Over 1,900 organizations and individuals joined SHLB in asking Congress to introduce and pass the bill.

Ironing Out RHC Program Kinks

In response to SHLB's feedback about RHC program inefficiencies and application processing problems, the Universal Service Administrative Company Head Radha Sekar agreed to begin a quarterly CEO roundtable, in which SHLB and leading healthcare providers have the opportunity to collaborate on improving RHC.

E-rate: Take Two

At the behest of SHLB and SECA, the FCC announced a second filing window for E-rate FY2020 in September, allowing schools to request support for the additional bandwidth needed for remote learning.

Chasing Goal #4 and Internet for All

For 11 years now, SHLB has fought to keep the National Broadband Plan's Goal #4 — gigabit capacity for all anchors by the year 2020 — top of mind for policymakers. The most recent success on this front came in the form of South Carolina Congressman James Clyburn's Accessible, Affordable Internet for All Act, introduced in the Senate and House on June 24. The bill gained widespread support from broadband supporters as the most comprehensive package aiming to close the digital divide in recent history. SHLB's extensive advocacy ensured that the legislation includes funding to finally achieve goal #4. Though the bill never made it to the president's desk in 2020, both the House and Senate reintroduced it in March 2021.

RIP EBS

Following a years-long war to keep the "E" in the Educational Broadband Service (EBS), the final battle was lost in December 2020. EBS had the potential to help schools connect their students at home, but the FCC chose to auction off the spectrum after a brief window that allowed rural Tribal Nations to apply for licenses. Though SHLB filed a petition for reconsideration of the Order that took this step, the FCC denied the request on December 17.
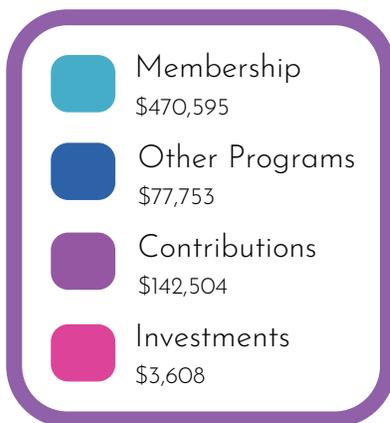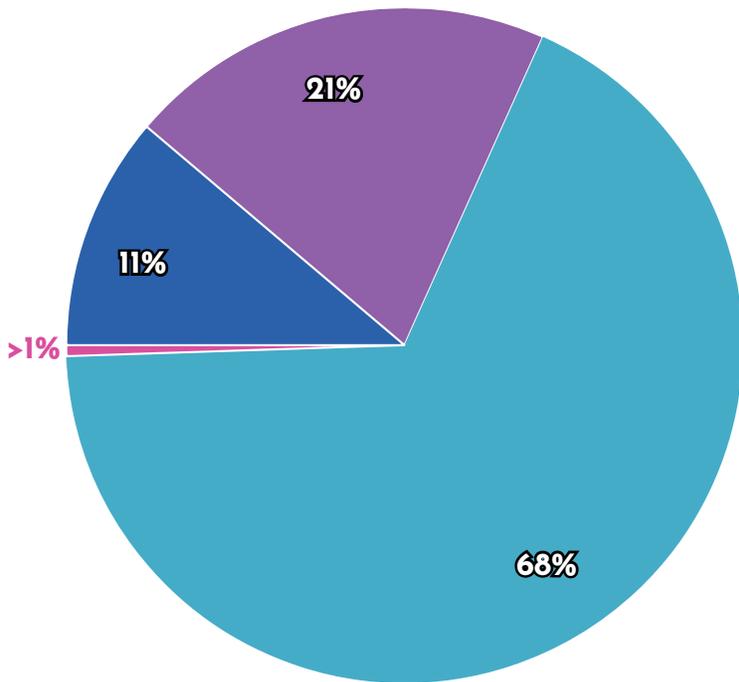
Learn more about our advocacy at shlb.org/policy.
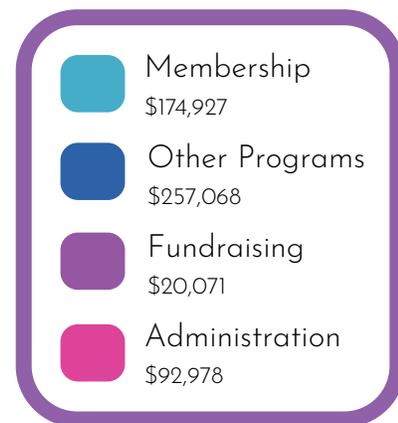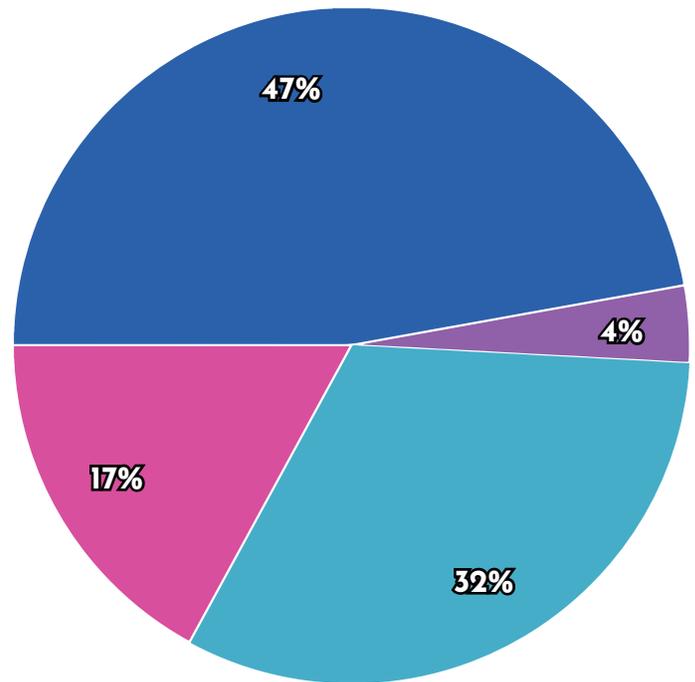
Financial Snapshot

With 2019 being the first year that SHLB operated as a financially self-sustaining organization, we began 2020 excited at the prospect of growing. The economy had other plans. Since we had to cancel one of our key sources of revenue, the Annual Conference, we were one of the many nonprofits forced to pivot from our budget goals. Fortunately, we rallied and put together a successful Giving Tuesday campaign. We're grateful that thanks to the support from our membership, foundations, individual donors, and sponsors, we managed to close the year better than expected..

If you have the means to help us grow our impact, please consider donating at shlb.org/support.

2020 Revenue

21%

11%

>1%

68%

Membership	$470,595
Other Programs	$77,753
Contributions	$142,504
Investments	$3,608

2020 Expenses

47%

4%

17%

32%

Membership	$174,927
Other Programs	$257,068
Fundraising	$20,071
Administration	$92,978

Thank You!

Have we mentioned that we have the most amazing community of supporters yet? To every member, every sponsor, and every donor: We have so much gratitude for you, because you made our 2020 impact possible. Here are all of the incredible organizations and people we have to thank for 2020*:

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ENA

ANCHORNETS ONLINE SPONSORS
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We also thank those who requested their donation remain anonymous.

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John Windhausen Jr., executive director, SHLB Coalition

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Beverly Sutherland, president and CEO, EdTechnologyFunds

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Emily Olson, chief operating officer
Abigail Simmerman, intern
John Windhausen Jr., executive director

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