CS&S Code for Science & Society

2025 annual report



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Letter from the Executive Director

2025 was an exciting year for CS&S and for our fiscally sponsored projects. Our organizational theme, A Commitment to Service, continued to guide CS&S as we built the organization into an outstanding fiscal sponsor for science and technology projects. We navigated changes in federal funding and philanthropy, while implementing new systems that further enhanced the services we provide to our projects. Our strategic plan, launched in early 2025, continued our focus on providing high quality service to our fiscally sponsored projects.

To assess our performance, we measured outcomes across the organization, which included how long it took us to close the financial books each month and the quarterly satisfaction of our fiscally sponsored projects. In 2025, our stellar finance team completed both an accounting systems migration, and brought our monthly close down from 30 days to an average of 14.3 days. Our new accounting system allows each fiscally sponsored project to have a portal where they can see their finances in real-time. This new system, along with our faster monthly close, puts financial information into the project's hands as quickly as possible, ensuring that every project has the best and most up-to-date information to inform and support decision-making. These improvements are making an impact! In the quarter October through December 2025 satisfaction survey, respondents were 100% satisfied or very satisfied with CS&S's financial services.

Speaking of new systems, Operations has transitioned to an all-Asana based task management system. The system allows fiscally sponsored projects to see and track the progress of a task and who is working on it. This new task tracking system is having a positive impact on our fiscally sponsored projects experience. In the quarter October through December 2025, we scored 100% satisfaction or very satisfied in Operations and 83.3% satisfied or very satisfied in Human Resources. I'm incredibly proud of our Operations and Human Resources teams!

As a part of assessing fiscally sponsored project satisfaction, we asked whether current projects would refer us to their colleagues in order to measure Net Promoter Score. I am thrilled to report that in the quarter October through December 2025 we received a 100% positive Net Promoter Score! This score shows us that our steadfast commitment to service and our intentional approach to serving our fiscally sponsored projects were successful. The score means that we effectively supported our projects, and provided a level of service that allowed them to focus on their mission-driven work. A 100% Net Promoter Score demonstrates that our 16 projects trust our services and would recommend other projects to apply for fiscal sponsorship with CS&S.

Looking ahead to 2026, we'll continue focusing on our commitment to service to our fiscally sponsored projects. Additionally, we'll be welcoming some exciting new projects. Stay tuned at https://www.codeforsociety.org/news.

Support CS&S

We rely on a wide range of contributions to support our network. Recurring donations and employer match in support of CS&S and our fiscally sponsored projects can be made through our website. Thank you!

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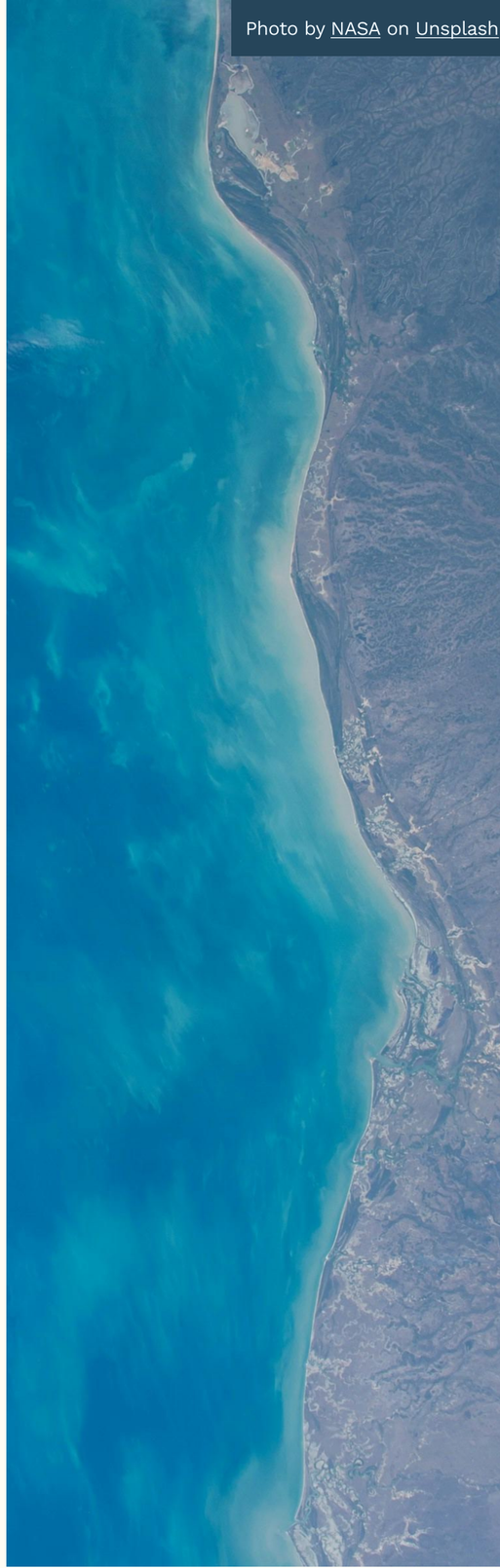




2025: Snapshot

Fiscal Sponsorship Program

COMPREHENSIVE FISCAL SPONSORSHIP

16 mission-aligned fiscally sponsored projects in:

- Public interest technology
- Open source software
- Open data projects
- Open research
- Software for science and research
- Open digital infrastructure

MEASURES OF PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Data shown reflects October through December 2025.

14.3 days on average to perform the monthly financial close

100% satisfied or very satisfied with Operational services

83.3% satisfied with Human Resources services

100% satisfied with Financial Services

100% positive Net Promoter score

(a measure of how likely fiscally sponsored projects are to refer us to their colleagues)

Finances

Code for Science & Society (CS&S) experienced a transitional year in 2025.

Core Operations saw three projects transfer out while investing in a new financial system, processes, and procedures. As a result of these project transitions and investments, the organization saw a 50% decrease in assets, a 21% fall in revenues, and a $10M (50%) decrease in net assets.

TOTAL NET ASSETS

$10.4M

down 48% from 2024

TOTAL REVENUES

$16.7M

down 21% from 2024

Our Mission

We work to advance the power of data to improve the social and economic lives of all people through public education, scientific research, and technology development and deployment. Our work aims to improve the public's ability to find, collect, and share data to make more informed decisions for the benefit of the public interest.

Our Vision

We envision a future where open research, data, and technology effectively work towards equitable distribution of resources and knowledge.

Our Values

Mission Driven: Motivated to provide the enabling infrastructure that supports our mission.

Go Above and Beyond: A commitment to excellence and integrity in service.

Learn through Experimentation: Continuous learning with room to explore and experiment.

Dignity & Respect: We believe in diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging as a critical part of our mission.

Collaboration & Partnership: We build relationships based on collaboration, problem solving, and mutual respect.

Our continued commitment to service

Leveling up our tools and systems

In 2025, CS&S took a major step forward in strengthening our financial infrastructure with an organization-wide implementation of the Sage Intacct Accounting system. When Ron Brooks was appointed CFO in late 2024, a critical goal was to upgrade our financial systems to bring greater transparency and real-time financial data to the projects. Ron and the Finance team completed the much needed systems migration in July 2025, launching customizable dashboards, custom reports, and integrating the new system with our other applications, such as Ramp and Trinet. This rollout introduced real-time financial dashboards for each project, giving teams immediate visibility into their financial data, and empowering them to make more informed and timely decisions. This data can be filtered in multiple ways, including by grant source, project, or functional activity.

What does this mean for project teams? Teams can now view transactions as they post in our accounting system, rather than waiting for a report at the end of the month. We still perform a 15 day financial close each month, but projects don't have to wait for the month-end close to see data and ask questions. Teams can also drill down into the accounts to better understand the details of the transaction by grant source, restriction, vendor, etc.

What's next? In 2026, we began modernizing our budgeting process with Sage's Planning Tool. This tool will bring our accounting practices even more up-to-date, and improve accuracy by using an integrated system for budgeting that ties directly into the accounting system. Sage's Planning Tool replaces cumbersome spreadsheets of the past. In addition, this will enable our projects to plan more effectively for sustainability by emphasizing financial planning and analysis year round. Ron and the Finance Team will lead financial literacy sessions as the system is rolled out in March and April 2026.



Photo by USGS on Unsplash

Fiscal Sponsorship Program

What is Fiscal Sponsorship?

Fiscal sponsorship is a legal and financial arrangement that allows a nonprofit organization to provide its tax-exempt status to a mission-aligned initiative that does not have its own 501(c)(3) status. Comprehensive fiscal sponsorship is a style of fiscal sponsorship where the sponsored project becomes a part of the sponsor, and the sponsor manages employment, payroll, accounting, finance, and all other operational aspects of the project. This arrangement allows the sponsored project to receive charitable donations that are tax-deductible, and administer grants and donations with the help of professional teams with expertise in operations and finance.

How Does CS&S Approach Fiscal Sponsorship

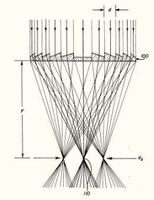
CS&S helps projects achieve their mission without having to undergo the lengthy and costly process of setting up an independent nonprofit. We are honored to play a crucial role in supporting projects by providing essential infrastructure and services that enable the projects to focus on their mission, rather than on administrative work. We are proud to be a partner to initiatives across open research and technology. CS&S's fiscal sponsorship program was founded in 2017, and today it supports (16) mission-aligned projects.

"Growing a recognized and trusted fiscal sponsorship program is our primary strategic objective."

Projects are supported by our strong finance and operations teams, who are entirely focused on the needs of projects in the fiscal sponsorship program. We measured our project's satisfaction with our services in 2025, and can report that projects are happy with our services, with 100% satisfied or very satisfied with Operational services, 83.3% satisfied or very satisfied with Human Resources services, and 100% satisfied or very satisfied with Financial services. In addition to this, we received a 100% Net Promoter Score, which translates to 100% of our fiscally sponsored projects would refer CS&S to a colleague. The role of fiscal sponsorship in science and technology is more critical than ever, and CS&S has evolved to meet this challenge. Our fiscally sponsored projects include:

CSID Network

Climate Sensitive Infectious Disease (CSID) Network



Concordance

2i2C

International Interactive Computing Collaboration

Invest in Open Infrastructure

Meta Docencia

MetaDocencia

OA.WORKS

OA.Works

OpenRefine

US Research Software Sustainability Institute

PREREVIEW

PREreview

<ReSA>
Research Software Alliance

Research Software Alliance

URSSI US Research Software Sustainability Institute

US Research Software Sustainability Institute

2025 and 2024 finances

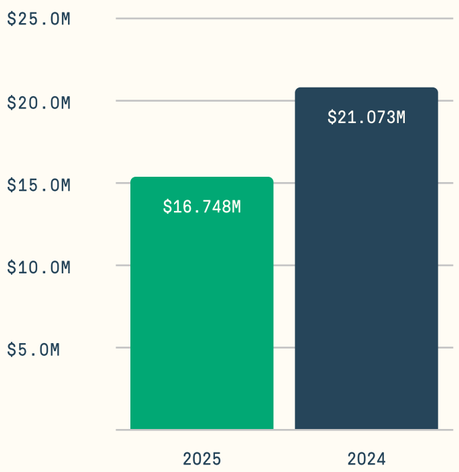
CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

	2025	2024
Revenues and Support		
Grants and Contributions	13,055,939	18,124,081
Contract Revenue	3,210,377	2,226,895
Investment Income	481,683	722,136
Total Revenues and Support	$16,747,999	$21,073,112
Expenses		
Program Services	15,870,151	12,224,440
Supporting Services	2,078,142	2,856,528
Program Spin Out	9,026,006	-
Total Expenses	$26,974,299	$15,080,968
Change in Net Assets	(10,226,300)	5,992,144
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	20,644,700	14,652,556
Net Assets, End of Year	$10,418,400	$20,644,700

CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2025	2024
Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	2,721,917	3,313,792
Short-Term Investment	6,015,751	12,357,060
All Other Assets	2,648,214	6,329,338
Total Assets	$11,385,882	$22,000,190
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	648,702	1,290,130
All Other Liabilities	318,780	65,360
Total Liabilities	$967,482	$1,355,490
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	1,678,062	1,710,352
Net Assets With Donor Restrictions	8,740,338	18,934,348
Total Net Assets	$10,418,400	20,644,700
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	$11,385,882	$22,000,190

TOTAL REVENUES & SUPPORT

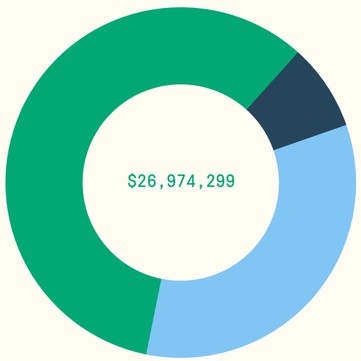


2025 EXPENSES

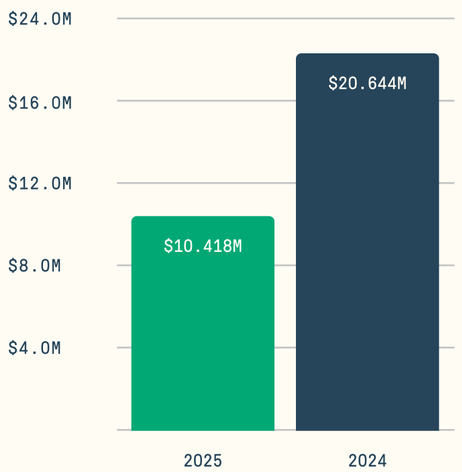
59% Programs $15,870,151

8% Support $2,078,142

33% Program Spin Out $9,026,006



TOTAL NET ASSETS



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Looking ahead, we remain committed to building on our **Commitment to Service** reflected by meeting key metrics and project satisfaction. Our focus will remain on advancing our impact by reinforcing our refined organizational values and strategic plan. This work will prioritize our **Commitment to Service** while ensuring the organization is appropriately structured, strategically aligned, and effectively leveraging technology.

For more detailed information, including full audited financial statements and other relevant documents, please visit the public documentation section of our website.

The year ahead

As the need for fiscal sponsorship in science and technology continues to grow, CS&S is committed to providing the essential support that our fiscally sponsored projects require to succeed. We understand the unique challenges that science and technology initiatives face, and our tailored services are designed to ensure that projects can focus on innovative programs, while we handle the administrative, legal, and financial complexities. If you're looking to bring your groundbreaking ideas to life, we offer the tools, expertise, and resources to help you achieve your goals. Join us in driving progress, fostering innovation, and advancing research that will shape the future—partner with CS&S today, or make a meaningful difference by donating to one of our fiscally sponsored projects.

Support our work

Contact giving@codeforsociety.org for more information. Code for Science and Society is a registered US 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law in the US. Tax ID 81-3791683.

Support CS&S

We rely on a wide range of contributions to support our network. Recurring donations and employer match in support of CS&S and our fiscally sponsored projects can be made through our website. Thank you!

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