MIDWEST INNOCENCE PROJECT

2026 ANNUAL REPORT

THIS IS HOW HOPE GETS TO WORK.

WWW.THEMIP.ORG

A LETTER FROM
Tahir Atwater
MIP Executive Director

Dear Friends,

In 2026, Midwest Innocence Project marked 25 years of working to prevent and overturn the wrongful convictions of innocent people. It was a year that made the urgency of that work impossible to ignore.

This year, MIP also launched an urgent appeal campaign that raised more than $600,000 to sustain our organization We are grateful to every supporter who stood alongside us to keep our mission alive.



Across Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, and Arkansas, hundreds of people are waiting for someone to review their requests for help. Active cases require patient investigation, skilled legal advocacy, and the persistence to keep going when answers do not come easily.

Your support makes room for the full work of freedom: building legal strategies, tracking down records and witnesses, and helping clients and families navigate incarceration and life after release. It allows MIP to stay with the work for as long as it takes.

That support extends beyond the courtroom. MIP is one of just 21 Innocence Network organizations with a licensed social worker, because a case is never only a case. Clients and families need steady communication, support during crises, help preparing for release, and someone who sees the whole person behind the legal file.

This report reflects what is possible when a community refuses to look away. It also reflects what is still ahead: people waiting for a second look, cases that need answers, and families holding onto hope.

Thank you for believing that freedom should not depend on chance. Your support helps ensure that people pursuing justice have a team beside them.

With gratitude,

Tahir Atwater

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Let's connect!

MIDWEST INNOCENCE PROJECT

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HOPE HAS A TEAM

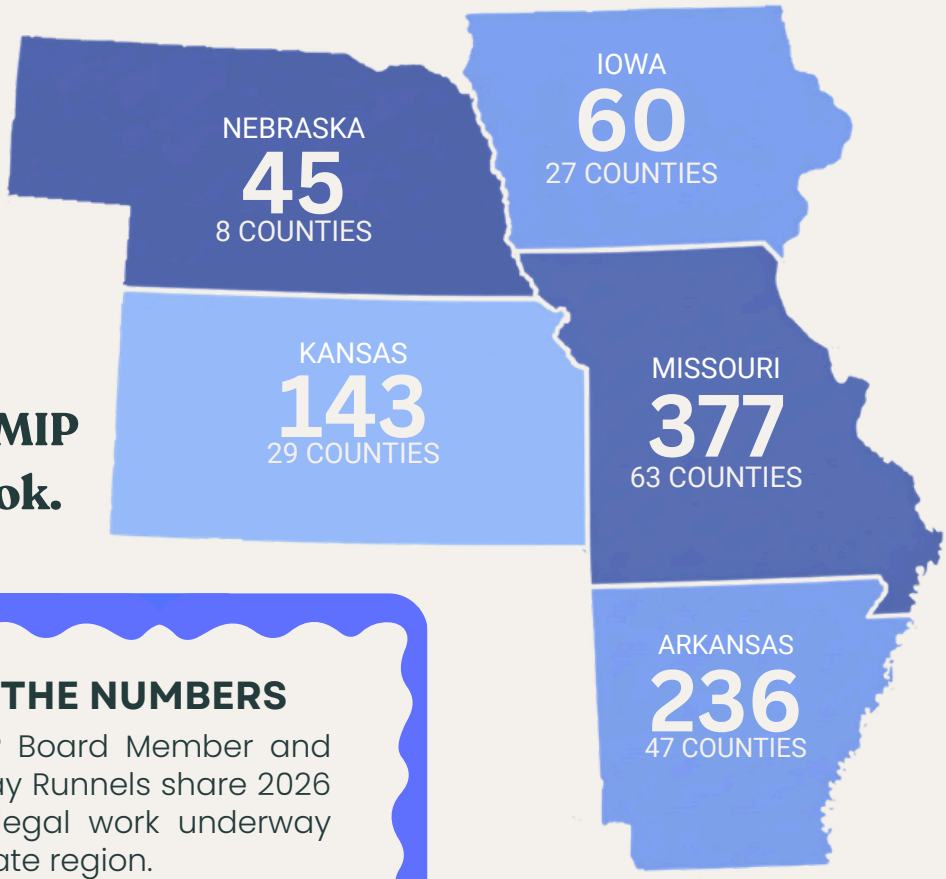
For 25 years, MIP has brought communities together to pursue freedom for wrongfully convicted people across Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. Clients and families are at the center, with advocates, interns, volunteers, partners, and donors building the team around them.

Together, we combine legal advocacy, investigation, and compassionate support to advance the fight for freedom.

This is how hope gets to work.

861+

people have asked MIP to take a closer look.



THE WORK BEHIND THE NUMBERS

Scan to hear MIP Board Member and co-counsel Lindsay Runnels share 2026 updates on the legal work underway across our five-state region.

MIP serves one of the largest regional jurisdictions in the Innocence Network.

674 WAITING TO BE SCREENED → **63** SCREENING → **102** AWAITING INVESTIGATION → **10** INVESTIGATION → **12** LITIGATION

MIDWEST INNOCENCE PROJECT

THE COURT SEES A CASE. WE SEE A WHOLE LIFE.

MIP's social work program recognizes that the challenges facing wrongfully convicted people and their families extend far beyond the legal process. Through individualized assistance, our social worker helps clients navigate practical and emotional challenges, maintain connections with loved ones, and prepare for life after incarceration.



THIS IS WHAT SUPPORT LOOKS LIKE:

DURING INCARCERATION
Individualized support and regular communication.

AS FREEDOM GETS CLOSER
Reentry planning and resource coordination.

AFTER RELEASE
Community connections and ongoing support.

"FOR YEARS I WISHED FOR SOMEONE TO LISTEN AND HEAR MY VOICE. NOW I HAVE MY VOICE BACK."

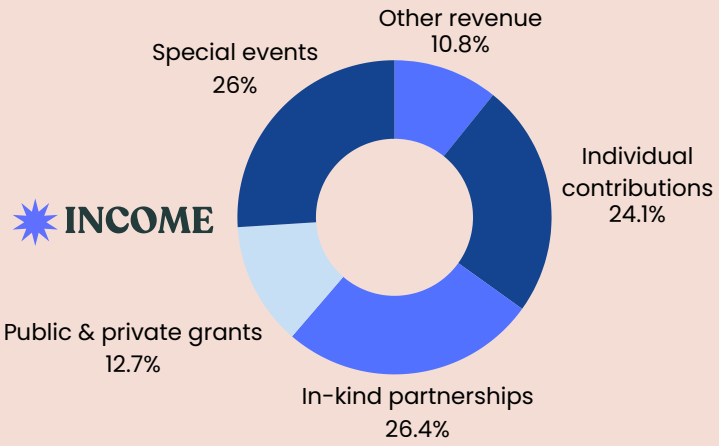
-DONNELL DOBBS, MIP CLIENT

MIP is 1 of just 3 organizations, among 76+ Innocence Network members, providing regional social work support.

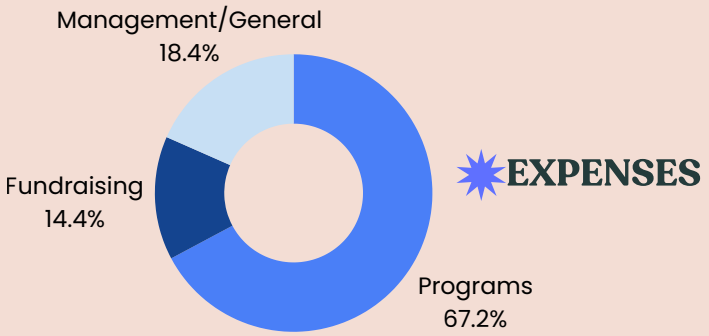
Where Support Comes From. Where It Goes.

**2025 Audited Income and Expenses*

INCOME



EXPENSES



We are grateful to every supporter who stood alongside us to keep our mission alive.

2026 fundraising is not included in the graphic above.

Gold Transparency 2026
Candid.

KEEP HOPE AT WORK. DONATE TODAY.

Help advance innocence work across our five-state region: follow MIP on social media, share this report, and sign up for newsletter updates.

SCAN TO GIVE

WWW.THEMIP.ORG