

Advancing Sexuality Education Across the United States



Annual Report 2016



SIECUS

Sexuality Information and Education
Council of the United States

From the President & CEO and Board Chair

The only constant is change, and 2016 was a year of continuing transition for SIECUS. While one face of our organization changed, with Chitra joining as our President & CEO in May 2016, we also enjoyed continuity and historical perspective through the leadership of Stephen—who had stepped up to serve as our Board Chair in April 2015.

We stayed true to our mission and values, continuing to affirm that sexuality is a fundamental part of being human, and that all people deserve accurate information, comprehensive education about sexuality, and equitable access to sexual and reproductive health services.

But in a world that is so very different from the one in which SIECUS was founded more than 50 years ago, it was time to take stock of our strategic efforts and direction.

Since 1964, our work has helped create a field that now includes multiple partners working on sexuality education at the national, state, and local levels. Taking the opportunity to step back and regroup ensured that we're focusing our resources where we can make the most impact. We landed on an approach that will make policy, strategic communications, and partner education the centerpiece of our work so that together—as staff, partners, and stakeholders—we can advance sexuality education policy and shift societal and cultural narratives around sexuality. We will remain in close collaboration with our education and training partners—this work must go hand-in-hand with our efforts—but we recognized that as SIECUS has emerged as a leader in making change through policy, it was time to refocus our core work plan.

Comprehensive sexuality education is a human right. Join us as we build on our legacy of informing, shaping, and advocating for policies and practices that ensure sexual and reproductive health education, equity, and autonomy for all.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Chitra'.

Chitra Panjabi
President & CEO



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Stephen Russell'.

Stephen Russell
Board Chair

Welcome

Chitra Panjabi was named President & CEO of SIECUS in May 2016, where she now advances SIECUS' efforts to reshape social, cultural, and political narratives around sex, sexuality, and sexual and reproductive health. Chitra, a feminist activist with a professional background in nonprofit management and fundraising, previously served as a national executive officer for the National Organization for Women (NOW), where she was responsible for managing operations, communications, fundraising, and membership engagement. Under her tenure, Chitra increased NOW's membership by nearly a third in a single year, led the most successful end-of-year online campaign in the organization's history, and implemented multi-year strategic planning to execute NOW's policy agenda.

Financials

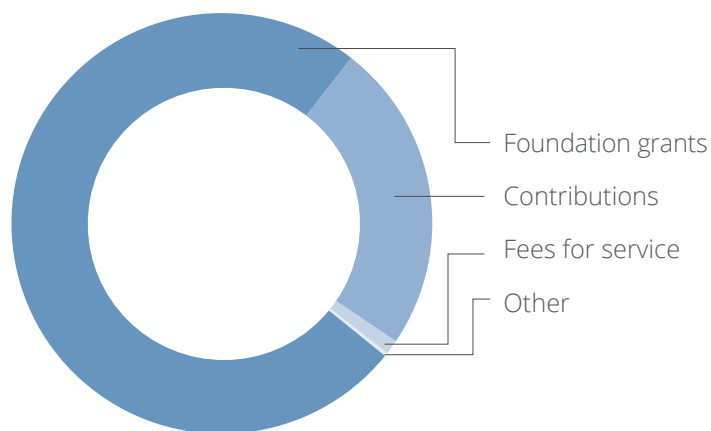
Fiscal year 2016: October 1, 2015, to September 30, 2016

Revenue and other support	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Foundation grants	\$346,250	\$211,865	\$558,115
Contributions	\$178,670		\$178,670
Fees for service	\$7,500		\$7,500
Interest income	\$1,117		\$1,117
Publications and other earned income	\$388		\$388
Realized and unrealized gain on investments	\$168		\$168
Miscellaneous income	\$50		\$50
Net assets released from restrictions	\$48,750	(\$48,750)	
Total revenue & support	\$582,893	\$163,115	\$746,008

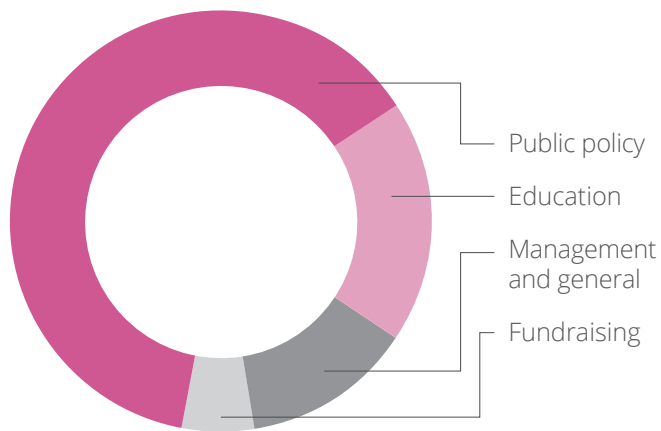
Expenses

<i>Program services</i>			
Public policy	\$285,048		\$285,048
Education	\$84,230		\$84,230
Total program services	\$369,278		\$369,278
<i>Supporting services</i>			
Management and general	\$59,001		\$59,001
Fundraising	\$24,668		\$24,668
Total supporting services	\$83,669		\$83,669
Total expenses	\$452,947		\$452,947
Change in net assets	\$129,946	\$163,115	\$293,061
Net assets - beginning of year	\$156,892	\$48,750	\$205,642
Net assets - end of year	\$286,838	\$211,865	\$498,703

Revenue and other support



Expenses



Making a Difference in 2016

National Policy Leadership

After years of consistently advocating for evidence-based education with the Obama Administration, **President Obama—in his final budget—proposed not only eliminating future abstinence-only funding, but also, for the first time, proposed ending existing funding for these harmful programs.** His message to Congress was clear: His Administration was committed to investing resources into what evidence shows supports the health and wellbeing of our nation's youth.

SIECUS-led efforts to educate policymakers in Congress resulted in bipartisan support for continuing \$108 million in funding for the Office of Adolescent Health's Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program in FY 2016.

Additional resources were also provided for HIV and other sexually transmitted infection (STI) prevention efforts among young people in schools, with a **\$2 million increase for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Division of Adolescent and School Health.**



Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA-13) reintroduced the *Real Education for Healthy Youth Act*, which would provide federal funding for comprehensive sexuality education for adolescents and young adults, as well as for teacher training, while prohibiting programs that shame or harm young people. SIECUS helped secure a **record numbers of supporters—16 Senators, 81 Members of the House, and more than 50 national organizations—to back this visionary legislation.**

Senator Mazie Hirono (D-HI) and Congresswoman Alma Adams (D-NC-12) introduced first-of-its-kind legislation, the *Youth Access to Sexual Health Services Act*, to support young people who face inequitable



access to sexual health care and related services. This unique legislation, backed by SIECUS, was co-sponsored by eight Senators and 35 Members of the House and was endorsed by more than 30 national organizations.



What it means...

The continued increase of congressional champions supporting sex education—demonstrated by the record number of co-sponsors on visionary legislation and on letters supporting federal funding for adolescent sexual health promotion programs in the 114th Congress—means we're building awareness within Congress of the vital nature of sex education for young people. Congressional support is critical for the protection of existing funding, as well as for creating new funding streams, to support the lifelong sexual health of young people.

What's in a Name?

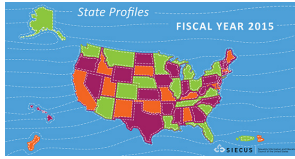
The federal **adolescent sexual health promotion programs** that SIECUS supports are a long-overdue investment in medically accurate and evidence-informed efforts that can support the sexual health and wellbeing of young people, but it's not comprehensive sexuality education.

Comprehensive sexuality education addresses the physical, mental, emotional, and social aspects of human sexuality, including human development, relationships, personal skills, and society and culture, as well as sexual behaviors and sexual health. When taught by trained educators sequentially throughout Kindergarten to 12th grade, the instruction addresses the needs of all young people, including young people of color, LGBTQ youth, youth who are sexually active, pregnant and parenting students, youth living with disabilities, and young survivors of sexual violence in ways that are evidence-informed and culturally appropriate.

The federal programs — the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Division of Adolescent and School Health, and the Personal Responsibility Education Program — can support sexual health programs and even some sex education instruction that is comprehensive in scope, but their primary intent is to reduce unintended pregnancies and prevent HIV and other sexually transmitted infections among young people rather than to educate and empower them. Providing young people with information and skills to address these sexual health topics is a component of comprehensive sexuality education, but it does not fully encompass the scope of instruction that young people need and have the right to for their lifelong health and wellbeing.

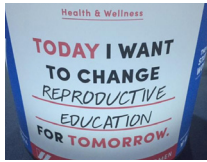
Which is why, while SIECUS continues to be a staunch supporter for the adolescent health promotion federal programs, we will continue to strive to advance policies and practices across the country to support comprehensive sexuality education!

State and Local Policy Support



Advocates **across the country** used SIECUS' technical assistance and resources to fight dangerous, abstinence-only policies—and advance sex education policies, programs, and practices. For example, parent advocates

in Colorado and Wyoming successfully used SIECUS resources to prevent abstinence-only speakers from addressing students in their respective school districts in the future.



SIECUS provided **more than 200 state partners** in communities across the country with the tools and strategies they needed to advance the quality of sexuality education in their school districts and classrooms.



"You've been an invaluable partner to SEANYC and have provided us with so much amazing information and strategy insight. Thank you."

– Member, Sexuality Education Alliance of New York City (SEANYC)

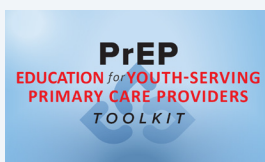
"Thank you for these [State Partner Resource] emails and all of the support you've provided to me and to Washington State."

– National organization partner, Seattle, Wash.

Publications and Resources

Shared **16 policy updates or alerts** on key federal, state, or local sexuality education and sexual health activities to more than 4,500 advocates, educators, parents, young people, and other key partners, continuing in our role as a leader in the field by informing stakeholders of up-to-date information about policies and practices that may impact their work advancing sexuality education.

Developed a white paper, ***Building a Foundation for Sexual Health is a K-12 Endeavor: Evidence Underpinning the National Sexuality Education Standards***, in partnership with Future of Sex Education Initiative (FoSE) partners, Advocates for Youth and Answer. The highlighted research confirms that the components of comprehensive sexuality education lay a foundation for lifelong health and wellbeing for young people.



Produced the ***PrEP Education for Youth-Serving Primary Care Providers Toolkit*** (July 2016), a **first-of-its-kind resource** for primary care providers to educate and counsel their young patients on the availability of PrEP for the prevention of HIV.

Published the ***2016 State Legislative Round-Up: Sexuality Education Across the Country*** (July 2016) and the ***2016 Sex Ed State Legislative Year-End Report: Top Topics and Takeaways*** (November 2016).

Disseminated ***SIECUS State Profiles: A Portrait of Sexuality Education, Fiscal Year 2015 Edition***, to nearly 5,000 stakeholders, providing in-depth summaries of public school sexual education policy, standards, curricula, and sexual health data for 54 states and U.S. territories.



"This type of update is helpful for us to keep a pulse on threats to sex ed."

– National organization partner, in response to federal funding update

"Thank you for constantly hustling and doing this work. Thank you for always having your eyes on sex ed policy when we can't/don't. Thank you for thinking of the resources needed proactively and putting together quality [publications] that benefit the field. Thank you thank you thank you."

– National organization partner

"THIS IS AMAZING!!!"

– State partner in response to the release of the PrEP Toolkit

Conferences and Coalitions

In partnership with eight national organizations, SIECUS gathered **140 educators and advocates from 37 states** for an annual Summit (November 2016), for three days of training to advance sex education policies and practices at the state and local levels.

SIECUS provided **content and led workshops for AIDSWatch** in Washington, D.C. (March 2016), the **Healthy Teen Network's Annual National Conference** (November 2016), and the **National PrEP Summit** (December 2016). More than 1,500 attendees benefited from SIECUS' presentations and resources related to sexuality education.



SIECUS staff attended the **Take Root Conference** in Norman, Okla. (February 2016), and the **Youth Tech Health Live Conference** in San Francisco, Calif. (April 2016), and **joined more than 3,000 allies from around the country at the first-ever United State of Women Summit** in Washington, D.C. (June 2016). As a result, SIECUS has continued to develop relationships and partnerships with organizations in the sexual and reproductive health, rights, and justice field.

For the fourth year in a row, **SIECUS co-chaired the federal Sex Ed Coalition, continuing in a key leadership role** among sexual and reproductive health and rights partners. **SIECUS also served for a second year on the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership Convening Group** and participated in other key national- and state-focused coalitions and working groups.



"THANK YOU! This was the best session of the whole conference. [The speaker] did a wonderful job navigating a tough subject."

– Attendee of "After Election Day" session at the 2016 Healthy Teen Network Conference

"Awesome as always. Thanks for leading the charge on our next wave of activism!"

– Attendee of "After Election Day" session at the 2016 Healthy Teen Network Conference

"Your [AIDS fact sheet] is compelling, flows well, and is easy to read—right out of the gate. I really appreciate it and all the time you put into it."

– National organization colleague, regarding fact sheet contribution to AIDSWatch 2016

Communications and Thought Leadership



SIECUS' statements on President Obama's budget **reached a media audience of 192 million people.**

Teen Vogue was one of 15 media outlets that quoted SIECUS on the issue: "After three decades and nearly \$2 billion in federal spending wasted on this failed approach, the President's proposed budget increases support for programs and efforts that seek to equip young people with the skills they need to ensure their lifelong sexual health and well-being."

As a result of SIECUS' involvement in the "Building our Power: Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice Advocacy Convening" in December 2016 and months of prior engagement, **the resulting statement of unity—signed by more than 90 organizations—**included "access to sexual and reproductive health education" as one of the core beliefs. This statement is grounding the mobilization efforts of partners around the country in our joint efforts to advance human rights.



"[The YRBS] data is essential to understanding the lived experiences of youth across the nation and to hold our systems and policies accountable for not supporting and protecting the health of young people of all sexual orientations... The significantly higher rates of rape, violence, bullying, mental health challenges, and substance abuse that young LGB people face must be a rallying cry for us to support our nation's youth."

– Chitra Panjabi, President & CEO as quoted in *Politico*, August 12, 2016

Thank You to our Supporters

The facts are hard to ignore: By the end of FY 2016, the number of years that comprehensive sexuality education received dedicated federal funding remained at zero. In contrast, abstinence-only-until-marriage programs had received dedicated federal funding for 34 years.

Yet, sexuality is a fundamental part of who we are; to deny that is to deny a person's humanity. It's imperative to provide medically accurate information about contraception, pregnancy, and STIs, but we must also incorporate education and skill-building about communicating needs, wants, and desires; developing relationships with people; setting boundaries; and learning that everyone has the right to be treated with dignity and respect, no matter their identity.

And that's where our **donors and funders** come in, as your generosity and commitment to making sure young people receive the information they need and deserve allows SIECUS to continue to advocate for comprehensive sexuality education in our nation's public schools. Your support, particularly during a year of self-examination and transition, has given us the resources to launch campaigns and seek policy changes at all levels of government, hone communications strategies to shift narratives around sexuality, partner with national and state organizations to advance educational programming, pursue grants, publish resources, and strategize with partners.

The impact of your support is significant and real: With comprehensive sexuality education, young people would be provided quality instruction throughout their school years. They would learn, when age-appropriate, about aspects of sexuality that go beyond sexual health or even sexual behaviors and contraception. They would experience holistic instruction that helps them learn about their bodies, understand how to communicate and establish relationships, and gain the autonomy to assess and challenge the injustices that our culture perpetuates around sexuality. And the more we can share those triumphs, the more we can influence and shape policy to bring quality instruction to even more states and territories and influence a national culture of acceptance.

Thanks to you, we've achieved some of the greatest advancements in sexuality education and health in United States history. Let us not go backward. Instead, please stand by us going forward; our work is not done.

SIECUS Staff

Chitra Panjabi, *President & CEO*
Jesseca Boyer, *Vice President*
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Darrel Lang, *Secretary (through 9/16)*
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Nadia Dowshen
Don Flowers, Jr.
Linda Hawkins
Keely Monroe

*Thank you to the following Board members,
who stepped down in 2016 after a combined
20 years of service:*

Elizabeth Casparian
Claire Cavanah
Lori Chin Hawkins
Corey McDougale