

Center on Alcohol, Substance Use and Addictions (CASAA)

Dr. Katie Witkiewitz

Director

Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Annual Review of Category 3 Research Centers/Institutes | February 25 2026

Mission

At the Center on Alcohol, Substance use, And Addictions (CASAA) our first priority is to **reduce suffering and social costs caused by substance use and other addictive behaviors**, and to **improve quality of life**. We do this by **generating high quality assessment, prevention, treatment, and implementation research**. We are strongly committed to the highest scientific integrity in our research and training programs. Attention to human diversity and health equity strengthens our science and makes it relevant to our local communities and larger society. We do our best work by collaborating with fellow scientists, community partners, practitioners, and those most impacted by substance use and other addictive behaviors, and by working across disciplines. At CASAA we are **committed to sharing our knowledge with fellow scientists, practitioners, communities and individuals who are directly impacted by substance use and other addictive behaviors**. It matters to us that our work makes an impact both here in our state and in our larger community.

FY 2024-2025 Goals and Status

Goal: Maintain a high profile as a world-class research center in the national/international scientific communities, in the New Mexico Community, and within UNM (successful)

Status: CASAA faculty serve on NIH grant review committees and on NIH Advisory Councils, CASAA sponsored national conferences and hosted CASAA research days, faculty, staff and students published in high quality scientific journals, faculty served on UNM IRB, COI, and executive search committees, as well as state-wide committees and national and international committees

Goal: Serve as a center for scientific and applied training in the addictions field (successful)

Status: (1) Successful continuation of the NIH Institutional Research Training grant supporting 4 pre- and 3 post-doctoral trainees, (2) supported a majority of the Grand Challenge funded pilot studies, (3) mentoring of UNM faculty and graduate students through grant writing seminar, (4) submitting a CASAA-wide center grant

Goal: Have a cadre of investigators pursuing their own individual lines of research (successful)

Status: Continued externally funded research in: mutual help programs and recovery from alcohol use disorder; clinical trials for alcohol use disorder, opioid use disorder, and pain; mechanisms of behavior change; measurement and mixed methods research; and college-based prevention programs.

Goal: Have at least 12 investigators at different career levels (successful)

Status: Maintained and grew the size of core group of principal investigators to 15. Successfully recruited Dr. Leslie Brick as Associate Professor and Dr. Colin Mahoney as Assistant Professor with tenure-track appointments in Psychology, Dr. Matison McCool transitioned from postdoctoral fellow to fully-funded Research Assistant Professor.

Goal: Have an effective administrative organization to support the mission and goals of CASAA (successful)

Status: Continued successful management and support of CASAA investigators, expanded research administration staff by hiring Sage Byrne as a pre- and post-award support person

Membership of Advisory Committee

Internal Advisory Board

Patrick Bridges – Director, CARC

Jessica Goodkind – Professor, Sociology

Kimberly Page – Distinguished Professor, Internal Medicine

Robert Rhatigan – Director, Geospatial and Population Studies Center

Jane Ellen Smith – Professor, Psychology

Annual meetings, last meeting on Aug 21 2025

External Advisory Board

Alcohol and Addiction Center Directors

Karen Cropsey – Univ of Alabama

Joseph Ditre – Syracuse Univ

Danielle Dick – Rutgers

Kelly Dunn – Univ of Maryland

Christopher Kahler – Brown

Adam Leventhal – USC

Denis McCarthy – Univ of Missouri

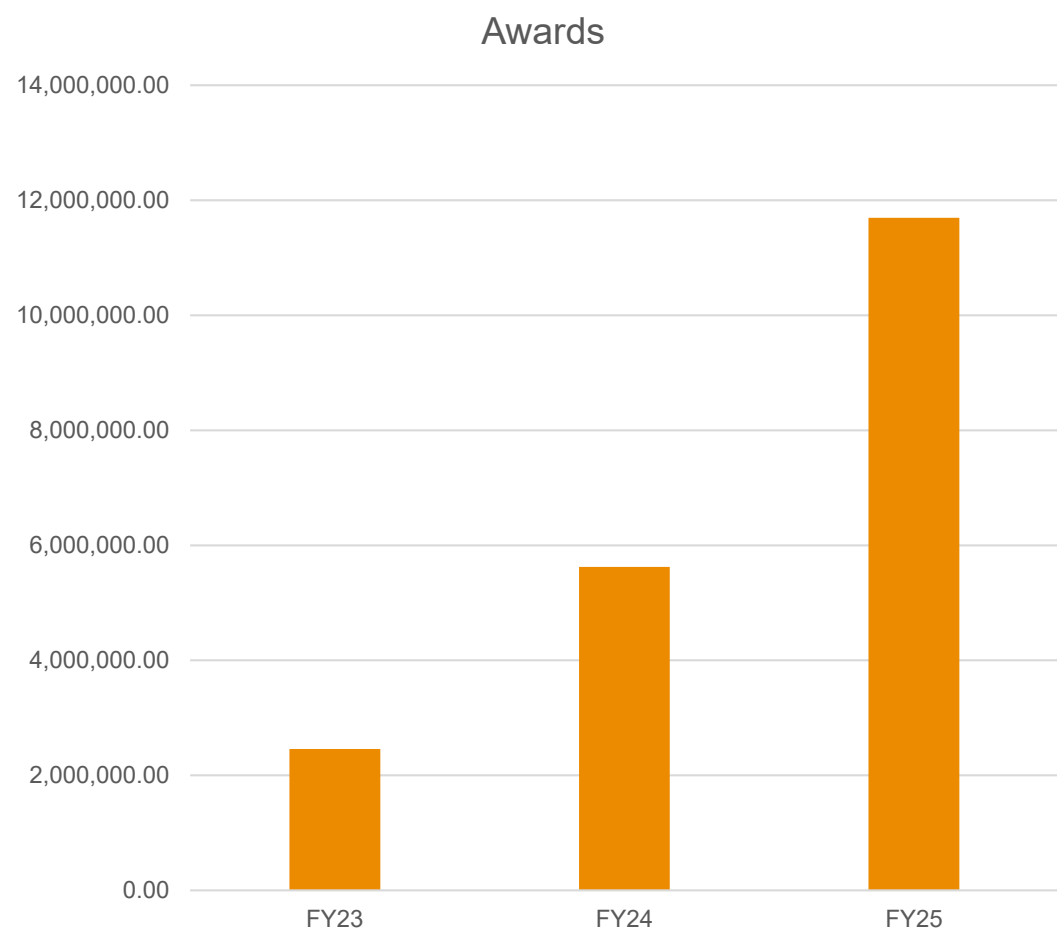
Anjali Rajadhyaksha – Temple

Monthly meetings, last meeting Feb 5th

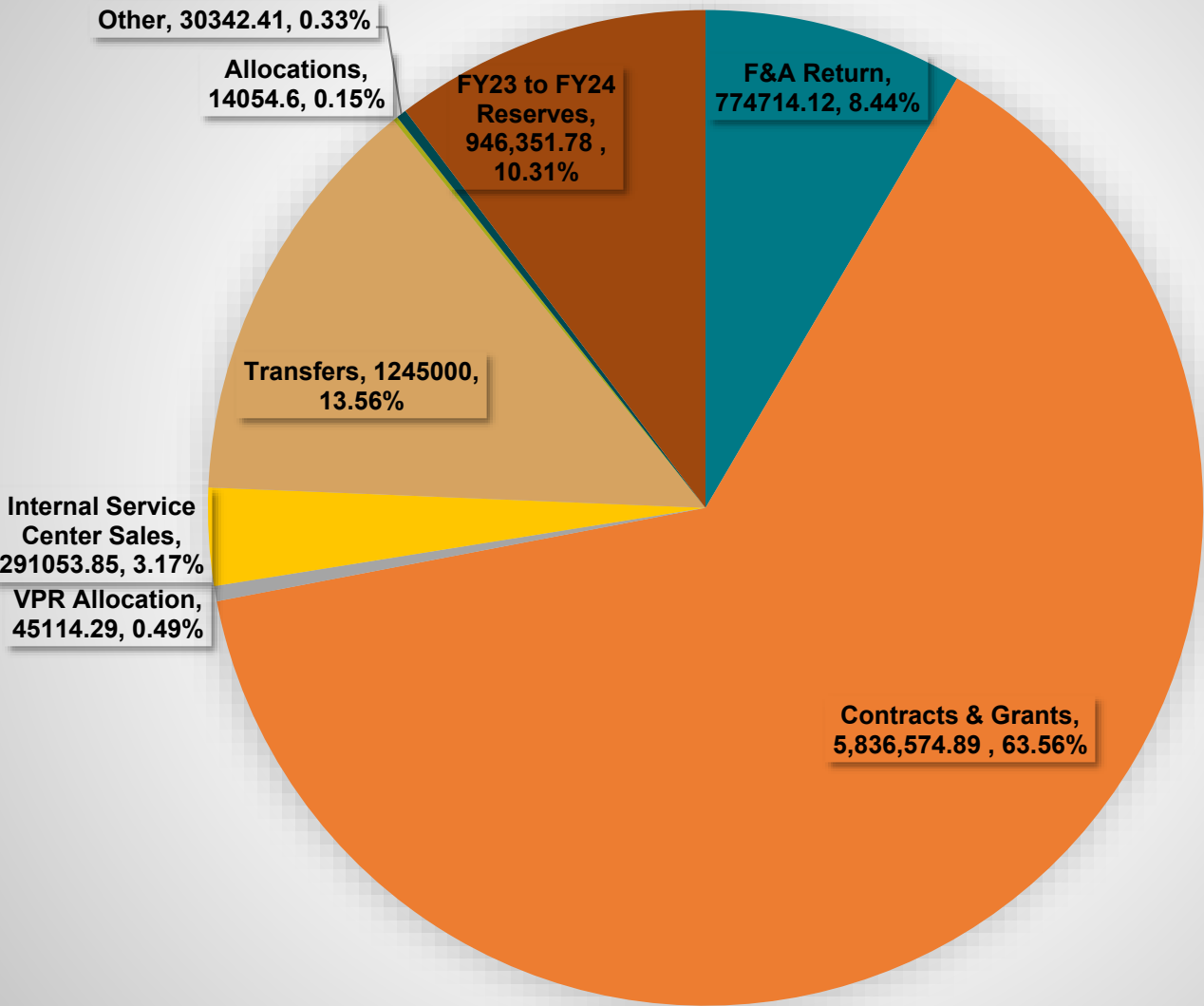
FY 2024-2025 Highlights

- Successful hires of a postdoctoral fellow, staff members, and new investigators: Leslie Brick, Colin Mahoney, Tara Bautista
- 173 publications in peer-reviewed journals
- NIH P60 Center Grant application that incorporated all CASAA investigators received a competitive overall impact score
- Faculty and staff awards
 - CASAA received the 2024 OVPR TEAM Ovation Award for Research and Scholarship
 - Deanna Sprunk received the 2024 OVPR Outstanding Research Staff Award in the category of Exceptional Support to Researchers
 - Jennifer Kavka received the 2025 OVPR Outstanding Research Staff Award in the category of Exceptional Research Staff Mentorship
 - Dr. Boness received the 2025 Distinguished Scientific Contributions to the Public Interest award from the Society of Addiction Psychology and 2024 Early Career Achievement Award from the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies
 - Dr. Witkiewitz received the 2025 Marlatt Mentorship Award from the Research Society on Alcohol, the 2025 Bowles Award from the Bowles Alcohol Research Center, and the 2025 Service Award from the National Institute on Drug Abuse
 - Dr. Grubbs received the 2025 Scientific Achievement Award from the International Center for Responsible Gaming
 - Dr. Venner received the 2024 UNM Science for Health of Indigenous Populations (SHIP) mentor award and the 2024 Women in STEM Award
 - Dr. Horn received the 2025 Ovation Award for Research & Scholarship
 - Dr. Greene received the American Public Health Association 2024 New Investigator Research Award
- CASAA received a Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) Science of Engagement Award (Boness, PI)
- New collaborations with the New Mexico Healthcare Authority and New Mexico Opioid Hub (State Opioid Response grant)
- Disseminated research findings via 23 news outlets, including the New York Times, Washington Post, PBS, Axios, The Hill, Fortune, the Atlantic, UNM Newsroom, KOAT, KRQE, KOB4

Proposals and Awards



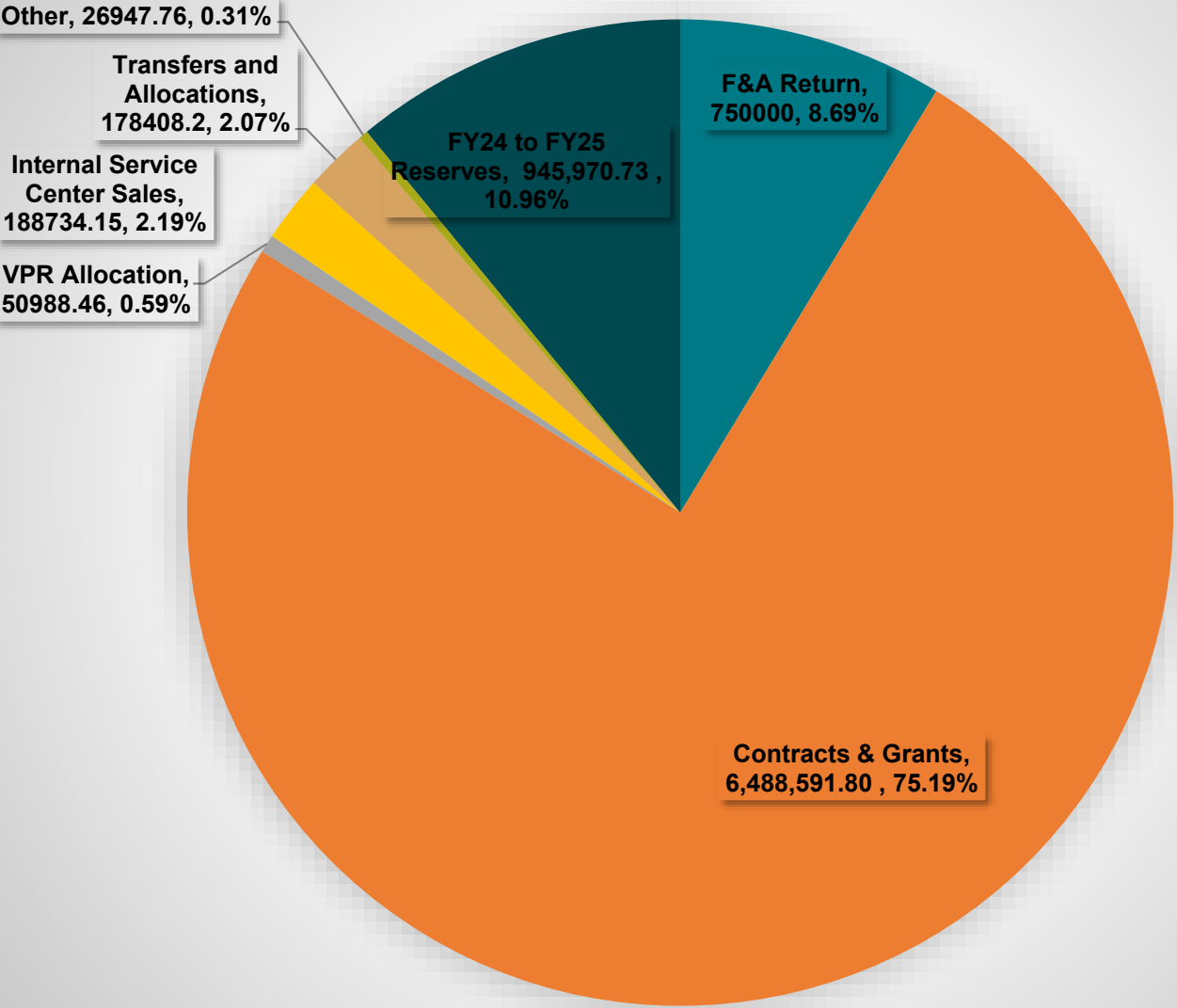
CASAA Revenue Details FY24



FY24 Sources of Revenue

F&A Return	774714.12
Contracts & Grants	5,836,574.89
VPR Allocation	45114.29
Internal Service Center Sales	291053.85
Transfers	1245000
Allocations	14054.6
Other	30342.41
FY23 to FY24 Reserves	946,351.78
Total	9,183,205.94

CASAA Revenue Details FY25

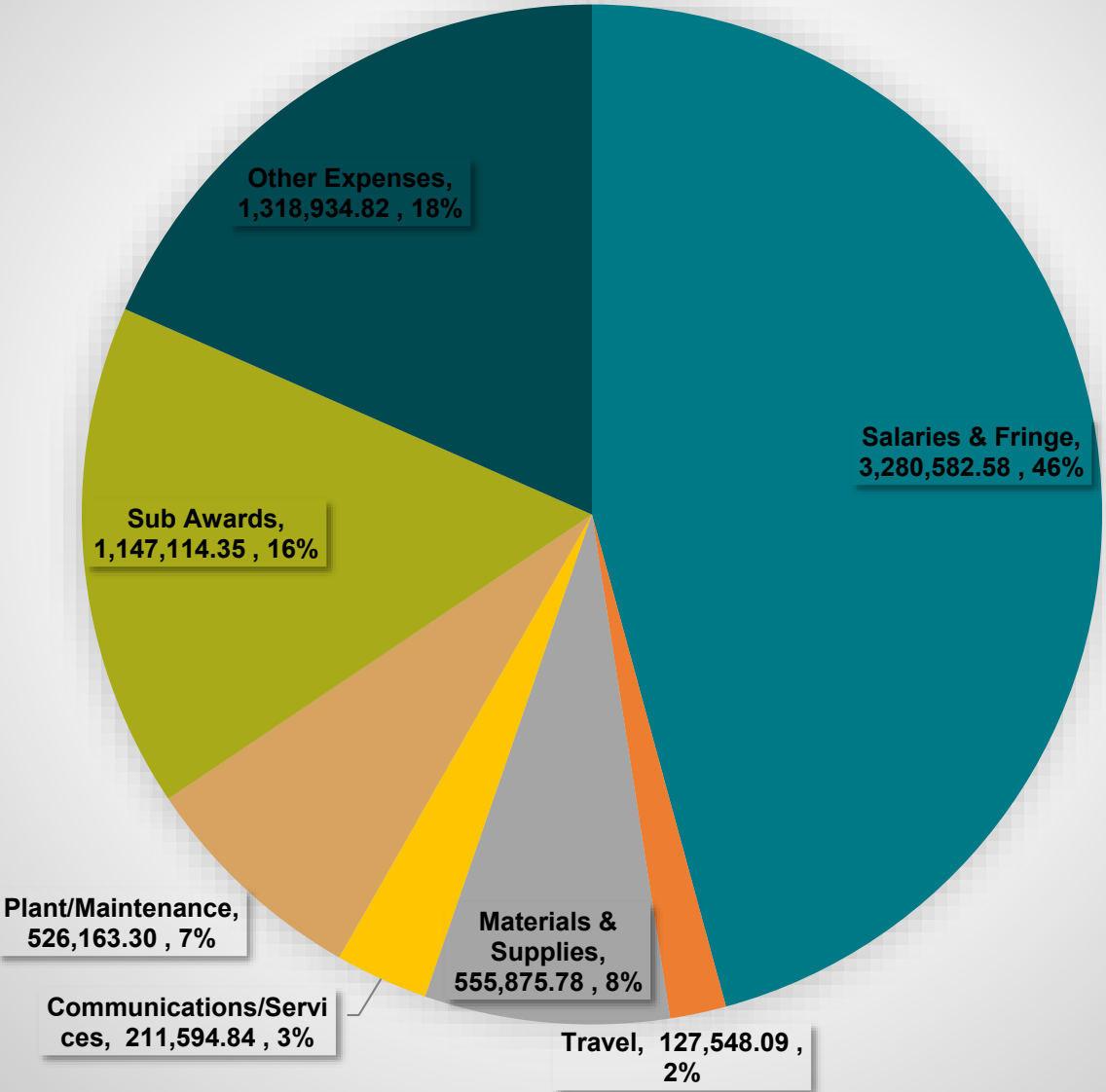


FY25 Sources of Revenue	
F&A Return	750000
Contracts & Grants	6,488,591.80
VPR Allocation	50988.46
Internal Service Center Sales	188734.15
Transfers and Allocations	178408.2
Other	26947.76
FY24 to FY25 Reserves	945,970.73
Total	8,629,641.10

Research Expenditures and F&A (last 5 fiscal years)



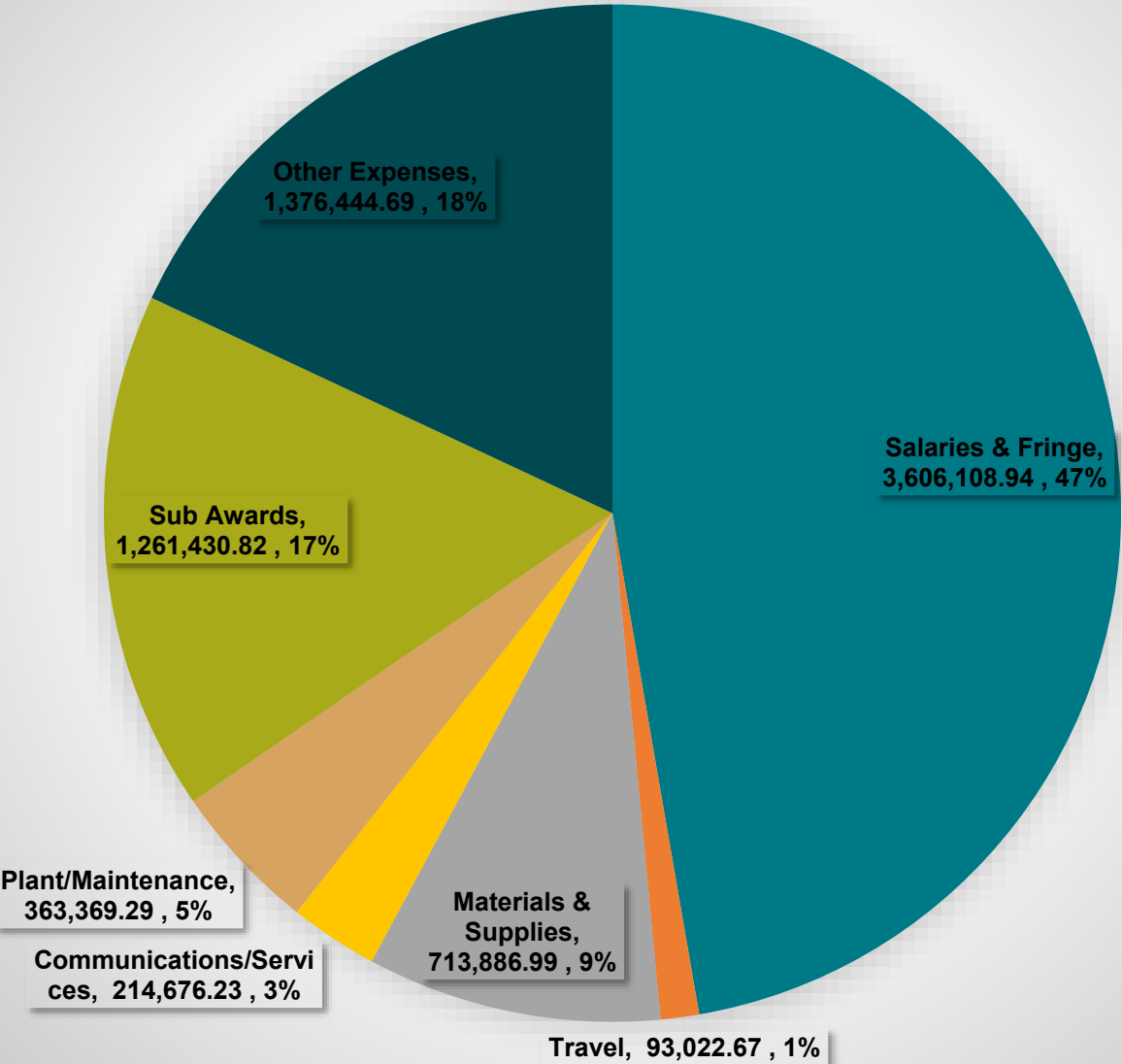
CASAA Expenditure Details FY24



FY24 Expenditures:

Salaries & Fringe	3,280,582.58
Travel	127,548.09
Materials & Supplies	555,875.78
Communications/Services	211,594.84
Plant/Maintenance	526,163.30
Sub Awards	1,147,114.35
Other Expenses	1,318,934.82
Total	7,167,813.76

CASAA Expenditure Details FY25



FY25 Expenditures:

Salaries & Fringe	3,606,108.94
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Travel	93,022.67
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Materials & Supplies	713,886.99
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Communications/Services	214,676.23
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Plant/Maintenance	363,369.29
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Sub Awards	1,261,430.82
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Other Expenses	1,376,444.69
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Total	7,628,939.63
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Research Center Impacts

Resources provided for the campus

- CASAA faculty have served as Chairs for search committees, including Provost Search, Psychology Clinic Director Search, and CASAA Faculty Search
- Dr. Witkiewitz serves on the Advisory Board for CARC, the HSC SUD Executive Steering Committee, the Arts & Science Research Strategic Planning Committee
- The Campus of Office of Substance and Alcohol Prevention (COSAP) provided campus-wide alcohol, tobacco, and drug prevention programs
- COSAP and Staff Council organizing campus wide opioid overdose prevention supplies
- Dr. Boness supports the UNM Collegiate Recovery Center in partnership with SHAC
- Faculty Service on Comprehensive Substance Use Disorder center committee and main campus IRB committee
- Mentoring and training of 51 undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral fellows

Outreach and training efforts

- Collaborated with New Mexico Health Care Authority to develop 12 new trainings for New Mexico behavioral health providers
- Delivered presentations and webinars to 6000+ people statewide, nationally, and internationally
- Developed and implemented 16 trainings for behavioral health providers in New Mexico
- Disseminated findings to Native Village of Chitina on opioids and medication treatment for opioid use disorder
- Served on a New Mexico Resource Panel, led by NM Alcohol & Mental Health ECHO

Contributions to education and intellectual environment: Courses and seminars

- Fall and spring Addiction seminar open to UNM faculty and graduate students, including sessions on grant writing and responsible conduct of research
- Faculty labs included mentoring/support of graduate and undergraduate research
- Developed two new graduate courses in Psychology
- Submitted RPSP to train behavioral health and addiction treatment providers in New Mexico
- Dr. Boness serves as Co-Director of the Alcohol and Mental Health ECHO
- Dr. Hurlocker served as Director of the Alcohol Specialty Clinic and Co-Director of the Anxiety Disorders Specialty Clinic in Psychology
- Six CASAA faculty provided ongoing clinical supervision of Clinical Psychology PhD students

Center serves as a resource for the state/region

- Service as members of NM Public Health and Safety Advisory Committee (Drs. Pearson and Witkiewitz), the NM Overdose Prevention and Pain Management Advisory Council (Dr. Starling), and the NM Sentencing Commission (Dr. Horn)
- Service on the board for Albuquerque Celebrates Recovery (Dr. McCool) and annual sponsorship of the Albuquerque Celebrates Recovery event
- Directly funded work with community treatment providers to develop better ways to treat substance use disorders and to train providers in delivering treatments
- Maintain CASAA website with freely available assessment tools used for substance use prevention and treatment, 2.25 million hits across 2024-2025 with 300k unique visitors during that time

Return on Investment

- CASAA research and mentorship resulted in 1 Honors degree, 4 M.S. degrees, and 2 Ph.D. degrees in 2024-2025
 - CASAA provides full stipend and training support for 7 trainees via our NIH funded T32 training grant (3 postdoctoral and 4 predoctoral fellows), who have been highly successful in obtaining academic careers and in receiving independent funding as PIs
 - 51 undergraduate, graduate, and post doctoral fellows received research training by CASAA investigators 39 undergraduate students supervised in research labs, and 26 graduate students conducted research, were in CASAA labs, attended CASAA training webinar, and/or were supported by grant funded research
- Across 2024-2025, CASAA faculty published 173 papers in top journals (*JAMA Psychiatry*, *Clinical Psychological Science*, *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, *Nature Reviews*), and CASAA faculty gave at least 70 conference presentations and invited talks
- CASAA faculty received \$19,572,997 in research awards obligated in FY24 and FY25
- Industry and community engagement
 - The IMPOWR Center and CTN096 Grants have developed and nurtured community advisory boards to guide research agendas and dissemination of findings. Drs. Venner and Vasquez lead the field in community-based approaches to substance use disorder prevention and treatment
 - Through 2024 and part of 2025 we continued the CASAA Community Advisory Board to provide a community-based participatory research resource to CASAA investigators
 - Dr. Boness co-leads the alcohol and mental health ECHO to train NM providers in evidence-based treatment of alcohol use disorder
 - Dr. Witkiewitz continues a partnership with pharmaceutical companies and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism to improve methodology for alcohol clinical trials
 - Dr. Horn serves on the NM Sentencing Commission and has devoted part of his time to examining economic policies related to alcohol sales and taxation in New Mexico
 - Dr. Boness serves on an American Psychological Association (APA) task force to revise the APA ethics code, and serves as co-chair of an APA committee on science and practice to disseminate evidence-based treatment information
 - Dr. Witkiewitz serves as World Health Organization technical focal point for the International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcohol

Collaborative working environment with good people who have a shared mission.
 Excellent staff and trainees.
 Promising early career faculty and successful mid-career hires.
 Strong history of funding and high productivity.
 Recognition as international leader in addiction research.
 Strong leadership and strong support from UNM leadership.
 Commitment to engaging with community and promoting diversity and equity.

STRENGTHS

Pursue broader collaborations, diversify funding portfolios, and continue to pursue large grant mechanisms.
 Tremendous early career scientists and trainees, who will be the next leaders in the field.
 Increasingly partnering with state and county for funding.
 Expanding expertise and outreach through community work.
 Our work aligns with UNM, NM, and NIH priorities.
 Cultural richness of NM and needs across the state.

OPPORTUNITIES

Senior investigators are limited in number.
 Many investigators spread thin.
 Overlap in expertise among investigators and lack of diversity of fields of study.
 Lack of regular informal and formal interaction with each other and other units at UNM (in part due to off campus location, part due to remote work)
 Off campus space limits collaboration with other units and contributes to people being spread thin – multiple roles on campus and at CASAA – going between the two takes time and energy.

WEAKNESSES

Current administrative threats to science, clinical practice, and addiction policy.
 Chaos of NIH changes that are detracting from our work and mission and may continue to do so for next 4 years.
 Changing levels of funding and uncertainty.
 Off-campus space, personnel recruitment and retention, and lack of connection to the UNM community.
 Our community is also being threatened by ongoing cuts to services.

THREATS

Looking Ahead to Fiscal Year 2026 and 2027

- **P60 Center grant.** We anticipate a potential successful funding decision on our P60 Center Grant application. In case the Center grant is not funded, we also plan to submit and resubmit individual projects as separate R01 and/or R34 applications to NIH.
- **Further enhance our profile as a world-class research center and resource in the national/international scientific community, in the greater NM community, and within UNM.** Faculty continue to serve as members of NIH grant review committees, continue CASAA lecture series in virtual format, continue to provide trainings to New Mexico providers, and faculty continue to publish in high quality scientific journals. Deepen and expand CASAA partnerships with treatment providers and policy makers in New Mexico, as well as continue to build and nourish stronger relationships with HSC investigators. Continue to develop community engagement resources.
- **Continue to pursue NIH mechanisms for Center grants.** We plan to submit a renewal application for our NIDA IMPOWR Center and also examine other NIH Center Grant mechanisms.
- **Address the challenge of covering CASAA lease expense.** CASAA is fully responsible for the expense of leasing our off-campus facility, and this responsibility accounts for 34% of our annual expenditures. Thus, we will continue to coordinate with UNM units responsible for leasing, developing and acquiring property to define options for securing a facility that supports the CASAA mission.

Summary

CASAA will continue to sustain and grow a culture of inclusive excellence to promote high quality and high impact interdisciplinary research and training in the study of alcohol, substance use, and addictions; to foster community engagement; and to improve the health and well-being of all New Mexicans.

CASAA is committed to serving as the leading research and training institute within the state of New Mexico focused on the prevention and treatment of substance use disorders and other addictive behaviors.