



GENDER JUSTICE LEAGUE
SAFETY · COMMUNITY · POWER

P R E S S K I T

Expelled from Home

*Persecution of Transgender Americans, Internal Displacement, and the
Road Map for a Resettlement Response*

FOR RELEASE MONDAY, JULY 27, 2026

Inside: press release · key numbers · findings and recommendations · story angles · figures and
photography · interview availability · full-page reproduction figures (appendix)

Media contact: kai@genderjusticeleague.org · Danni Askini, Executive Director ·
danni@genderjusticeleague.org · cell 206-861-9259 · office 206-659-5519

Media contact: kai@genderjusticeleague.org · Danni Askini, Executive Director · danni@genderjusticeleague.org · cell 206-861-9259 · office 206-659-5519 · info@genderjusticeleague.org

New Report: 8,000 to 15,000 Transgender Americans Have Fled to Washington Since November 2024 — and No Government Agency Is Counting Them

Gender Justice League's Expelled from Home is the first published analysis to apply the UN's internal displacement framework to transgender Americans; the organization is asking Seattle for a one-time \$2 million response before the Mayor's funding review closes in August.

SEATTLE, WA — July 27, 2026 — Gender Justice League today released *Expelled from Home: Persecution of Transgender Americans, Internal Displacement, and the Road Map for a Resettlement Response*, a 54-page white paper documenting an unprecedented sustained flight of transgender Americans from hostile states — and the absence of any government system that counts, plans for, or funds their arrival.

Four independent national surveys converge on the same pattern of accelerating flight. The most recent, an October 2025 MAP/NORC household poll, estimates that 401,000 transgender Americans — roughly nine percent of the national transgender population — moved between states in a single seven-month window after the 2024 election. Washington consistently ranks as the second most-named destination in the country. Gender Justice League's working planning range — with methodology stated in full — is 8,000 to 15,000 transgender internally displaced people arriving in Washington since November 2024. No city, county, or state agency maintains any count at all.

The report documents the conditions driving the flight: more than 290 anti-transgender laws enacted since 2021, including a record 109 in 2025; federal executive orders voiding identity documents and restricting healthcare; and two Supreme Court rulings — *United States v. Skrmetti* and *West Virginia v. B.P.J.*, decided with *Little v. Hecox* — that have effectively closed the Fourteenth Amendment pathway every modern civil rights movement has relied on.

Expelled from Home is the first published analysis to apply the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement — a framework the United States helped write and funds on four continents — to transgender Americans. On March 31, 2026, the Seattle LGBTQ Commission became the first municipal advisory body in the country to adopt

that framework, asking the City to declare a civil emergency. Mayor Wilson convened an interdepartmental review instead, with a funding decision expected by the end of August 2026.

"Washington made a promise to transgender people: that this state would be safe when their own states no longer were. Thousands of people believed that promise and came. This report is the evidence of what keeping it requires — a count, a coordinator, and a community grants program the City already knows how to run," said **Danni Askini, Executive Director of Gender Justice League.**

The organizations receiving arriving people are collapsing under the load. One Seattle organization, TRACTION, has helped 1,500 people flee hostile states since the 2024 election on annual revenue that was under \$84,000 before the election. Requests to Gender Justice League's Community Security Program have risen 642 percent since 2022 — from 10 to 12 requests a month to 95. At the same time, national foundation funding for transgender communities has fallen 31 percent from its 2022 peak, and Washington-focused trans funding fell 63 percent in a single year.

"People reach us after they have already done the hardest part alone. They sold what they could, packed what fit in the car, and left states where their own legislatures made staying impossible. What they ask for when they arrive is ordinary: a landlord who will accept an out-of-state reference, help restoring identity documents their home state voided, a way into the life of a city where they know no one. Our program went from ten or twelve requests a month in 2022 to ninety-five today. The needs have not changed — the number of people carrying them has," said **Ishalaa Ortega, Program Director at Gender Justice League.**

The report's central finding is fiscal: stabilizing an arriving person through the refugee-resettlement model Washington already operates costs about \$2,275, while the same person falling into the regional homelessness system costs the public \$11,200 to \$35,578 per year. In 2024, the Washington Legislature appropriated roughly \$32.7 million for asylum seekers outside federal eligibility — proof, the report argues, that the state can extend its resettlement architecture when it chooses to.

"We can stabilize an arriving person for about \$2,275, or we can meet that same person for the first time inside the homelessness system at \$35,000 a year. That is the choice in front of the City, and it has a deadline," **Askini** said.

Gender Justice League has delivered a companion letter to Mayor Katie Wilson, Acting Director Cuc Vu of the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs, and the Seattle City Council requesting a one-time \$2 million General Fund appropriation: \$250,000 for a dedicated displacement-response coordinator at OIRA and \$1.75 million for a competitively awarded community grants program across seven priority areas, from housing stabilization to legal services.

"Our board has watched fourteen years of steady work compress into twenty months of triage. The staff answering these calls are carrying a caseload that has grown more than sixfold since 2022, in the same year that 80 percent of our foundation funding disappeared. The model works and the math is public. What we are asking of the City is a decision," said **Sarah Moran, Board Chair of Gender Justice League.**

The full report, figures, and dataset are available at **genderjusticeleague.org/expelled-from-home**. High-resolution graphics, photography, and interviews with Gender Justice League leadership are available on request.

About Gender Justice League. Gender Justice League is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization founded in Seattle in 2012. GJL empowers all people to eliminate discrimination and prejudice based on sex, gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation. Over fourteen years, GJL has served more than 3,000 transgender people from 27+ states, runs Trans Advocacy Day in Olympia, produces Trans Pride Seattle — the state's largest annual celebration of transgender lives, drawing more than 35,000 participants — and co-founded the No Hate in WA State campaign.

###

FACT SHEET

By the Numbers

401,000

Estimated transgender Americans who moved states between Nov. 2024 and June 2025 (MAP/NORC national polling)

8,000–15,000

GJL working planning range of trans internally displaced people arriving in Washington since Nov. 2024

0

City, county, or state agencies that count transgender arrivals — or transgender residents at all

290+

Anti-transgender laws enacted since 2021; a record 109 in 2025 — the sixth consecutive record year (Trans Legislation Tracker)

2nd

Washington's consistent rank among most-named destination states for displaced trans Americans

24,000–32,000

Transgender King County residents ages 13+, high-confidence estimate — more people than the entire City of Tukwila (21,798)

1,500

People helped to flee hostile states since the 2024 election by TRACTION — on pre-election annual revenue under \$84,000

+642%

Growth in requests to GJL's Community Security Program since 2022 — 982 requests answered in the last year

–31%

Drop in U.S. foundation funding for LGBTQ communities from its 2022 peak (\$258.1M to \$178.2M), as enactments set records

–63%

One-year drop in trans-specific foundation funding for Washington-focused work (\$909,922 to \$340,191)

\$2,275

Per-person cost of arrival-stage stabilization under the refugee-resettlement model Washington already operates

\$35,578

Average annual public cost of chronic homelessness — the system arriving households enter when nothing else exists

The ask. A one-time \$2 million Seattle General Fund appropriation — \$250,000 for one displacement-response coordinator at the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs, and \$1.75 million for a competitively awarded community grants program across seven priority areas grounded in the UN Guiding Principles. The Mayor's interdepartmental review concludes with a funding decision expected by the end of August 2026.

All figures are sourced in the report's 92 endnotes. Survey-derived figures are labeled as such; the arrival range is a planning range, not a count — the report's first recommendation is the administrative count that would replace it.

Five Findings, Three Stages

1 • The displacement is real, large, and hardest on those who can least afford to move.

Four independent surveys converge: nearly half of trans Americans have considered leaving their state, and nine percent moved in a single seven-month window. Among lower-income trans people in hostile states, 73 percent want to relocate — and they are the least able to afford it. Those who arrive, arrive depleted.

2 • The constitutional backstop is gone.

Skrametti upheld healthcare bans under the lowest standard of review; *B.P.J.* held that exclusion survives even intermediate scrutiny. Together they validate the two doctrinal pathways hostile states use — and the next wave of legislation is already drafted and public.

3 • Nobody counts the displaced, and the displaced avoid the systems that exist.

No Washington government maintains any count of trans arrivals or residents. Three decades of international displacement research shows why routing a response through mainstream systems would fail anyway: when the state is the persecutor, displaced people reach help through trusted community organizations first.

4 • The response architecture already exists — for a different population.

Washington's refugee resettlement system delivers reception funding, transitional cash, and case management through contracted community organizations. In 2024, the Legislature extended that model to asylum seekers outside federal eligibility with a \$32.7 million appropriation. Every design element a trans displacement response needs is already in that appropriation.

5 • Front-loaded stabilization is dramatically cheaper than the alternative.

About \$2,275 per person up front versus \$11,200–\$35,578 per year downstream. A pilot serving 500 arriving households at resettlement-model rates costs roughly what the homelessness system spends on 150 people in a year.

The staged response. **Stage 1 (now, near-zero cost):** add three intake questions — state of origin, arrival date, reason for relocation — to funded providers and regional data systems; confirm state survey instruments. **Stage 2 (2026 supplemental/2027 budgets):** the \$2M Seattle appropriation; King County direct contracts at resettlement-model rates; philanthropy replaces its retreat. **Stage 3 (2027 session):** a named internal-displacement line item at the state's refugee office, modeled clause-for-clause on the 2024 asylum-seeker appropriation.

Story Angles & Interview Availability

The first American IDP designation. Seattle's LGBTQ Commission is the first municipal advisory body in U.S. history to formally apply the UN internal-displacement framework to American citizens. *Expelled from Home* is the first published analysis to build the full case. The United States championed these rules abroad for 28 years and has never once applied them at home.

The count that doesn't exist. The region's central data gap is a choice: intake questions that would produce a real count within two quarters cost almost nothing. Critics say the migration "hasn't been studied" — the report answers with the study, and with the instrument list.

The money scissors. Record anti-trans enactments and a 31 percent national funding retreat, at once. Washington rose to fourth in the nation for LGBTQ funding while its trans-specific funding fell 63 percent. The organizations

doing reception work are, in one director's words, "all broke trans people helping broke trans people."

The fiscal case conservatives can read. \$2,275 up front versus \$35,578 a year downstream. The report prices the response against the City's existing targeted-population investments and identifies ten one-time offset sources — no cuts to base services.

The national bellwether. What Seattle decides by the end of August becomes the template — or the cautionary tale — for every refuge state absorbing this displacement, and for the climate displacements the same architecture would serve next.

Human stories, with consent. GJL can connect reporters with displaced community members who have consented to interviews, on their own terms — including anonymized formats where safety requires.

Available for interview: Danni Askini, Executive Director, Gender Justice League — on the report, the data, the Seattle request, and the national picture. Available in-studio (Seattle) or remote; short-notice commentary for breaking news; she/her. Direct cell: 206-861-9259 · kai@genderjusticeleague.org (urgent requests answered within 2–4 hours) · office 206-659-5519.

Board Chair **Sarah Moran** and Program Director **Ishalaa Ortega** are available on what the intake data looks like from the ground; program staff available on background for service-volume detail.

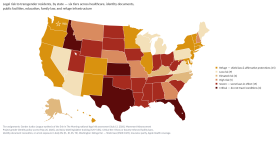
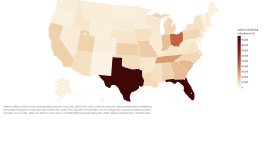
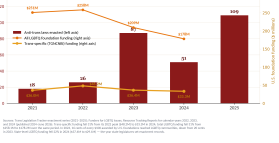
Suggested questions:

- Why call this "internal displacement" rather than migration — and what turns on the difference?
- No agency counts trans arrivals. How did you build the 8,000–15,000 range, and what would replace it?
- What happens to the reception network if the City's decision slips past August?
- Why route a response through community organizations instead of existing City and County systems?
- Washington funded asylum seekers outside federal eligibility in 2024. Why does that precedent matter here?

MEDIA ASSETS

Figures & Photography

High-resolution versions of every asset below ship with this kit (media_assets folder) and are available at the report URL. Figures may be republished with the credit line **"Gender Justice League, Expelled from Home (July 2026)"**. Photography credit lines are listed per image and are required.

Asset	Description	Credit / notes
 Two Countries, One Map — GJL Trans Legal Risk Index: six tiers of legal risk across all 50 states and D.C.	Two Countries, One Map — GJL Trans Legal Risk Index: six tiers of legal risk across all 50 states and D.C.	Gender Justice League, <i>Expelled from Home</i> (July 2026)
 Where the Displacement Pressure Originates — an estimated 562,000 trans adults considering relocation, by state.	Where the Displacement Pressure Originates — an estimated 562,000 trans adults considering relocation, by state.	Gender Justice League, <i>Expelled from Home</i> (July 2026)
 Record Attacks, Retreating Money — anti-trans laws enacted per year against U.S. foundation funding, 2021–2025.	Record Attacks, Retreating Money — anti-trans laws enacted per year against U.S. foundation funding, 2021–2025.	Gender Justice League, <i>Expelled from Home</i> (July 2026)
 The Fiscal Comparison — \$2,275 front-loaded stabilization vs. \$11,200–	The Fiscal Comparison — \$2,275 front-loaded stabilization vs. \$11,200–	Gender Justice League, <i>Expelled from Home</i> (July 2026)

	\$35,578 downstream crisis costs per person.	
	Report cover image — trans flag raised against the mountains.	Photo: Mike Newbry / Unsplash
	Trans Advocacy Day 2026 — advocates on the Washington State Capitol steps, Olympia.	Photo: Mel Ponder for Gender Justice League (confirmed for press use)
	The reception system — TRACTION at Trans Pride Seattle.	Photo: Mel Ponder for Gender Justice League

BACKGROUND

About Gender Justice League

Gender Justice League is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization founded in Seattle in 2012. GJL empowers all people to eliminate discrimination and prejudice based on sex, gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation.

Over fourteen years, GJL has served more than 3,000 transgender people from 27 or more states; runs Trans Advocacy Day in Olympia; produces Trans Pride Seattle — the state's largest annual celebration of transgender lives, drawing more than 35,000 participants; and co-founded the No Hate in WA State campaign. GJL's Community Security Program answered 982 requests for help in the last year — 95 per month, up from 10 to 12 per month in 2022.

Danni Askini (she/her) is the founder and Executive Director of Gender Justice League, Executive Director of Trans Pride Seattle, and Co-Chair of the No Hate in WA State coalition. Over 25 years of advocacy she has secured landmark policy victories including transgender-inclusive Medicaid coverage in Oregon and Washington, statewide conversion therapy bans, passage of the Gender Affirming Treatment Act (2021), and the defeat of more than 23 anti-trans bills and ballot measures. In 2016 she became the first openly transgender candidate for the Washington State

Legislature, and she has served as a senior health policy consultant to the U.S. Senate HELP Committee. Her 2018–2020 exile in Sweden was resolved through an unprecedented UN Human Rights Council intervention that brought international attention to the persecution of transgender Americans. Gender Justice League is an organizational plaintiff supporting Lambda Legal in *Shilling v. Trump*, the challenge to the transgender military ban. She holds an Executive MBA from the University of Washington and an MSW from the University of Southern Maine.

Headshots, high-resolution graphics, and media

resources: kai@genderjusticeleague.org — urgent press inquiries: 206-861-9259.

Gender Justice League is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Contributions to GJL are tax-deductible for federal income tax purposes.

Contact. Press: kai@genderjusticeleague.org · Danni Askini, Executive Director · danni@genderjusticeleague.org · cell 206-861-9259

Gender Justice League · 1416 NW 46th St, STE 105 #104, Seattle, WA 98107 · 206-659-5519 · info@genderjusticeleague.org · genderjusticeleague.org

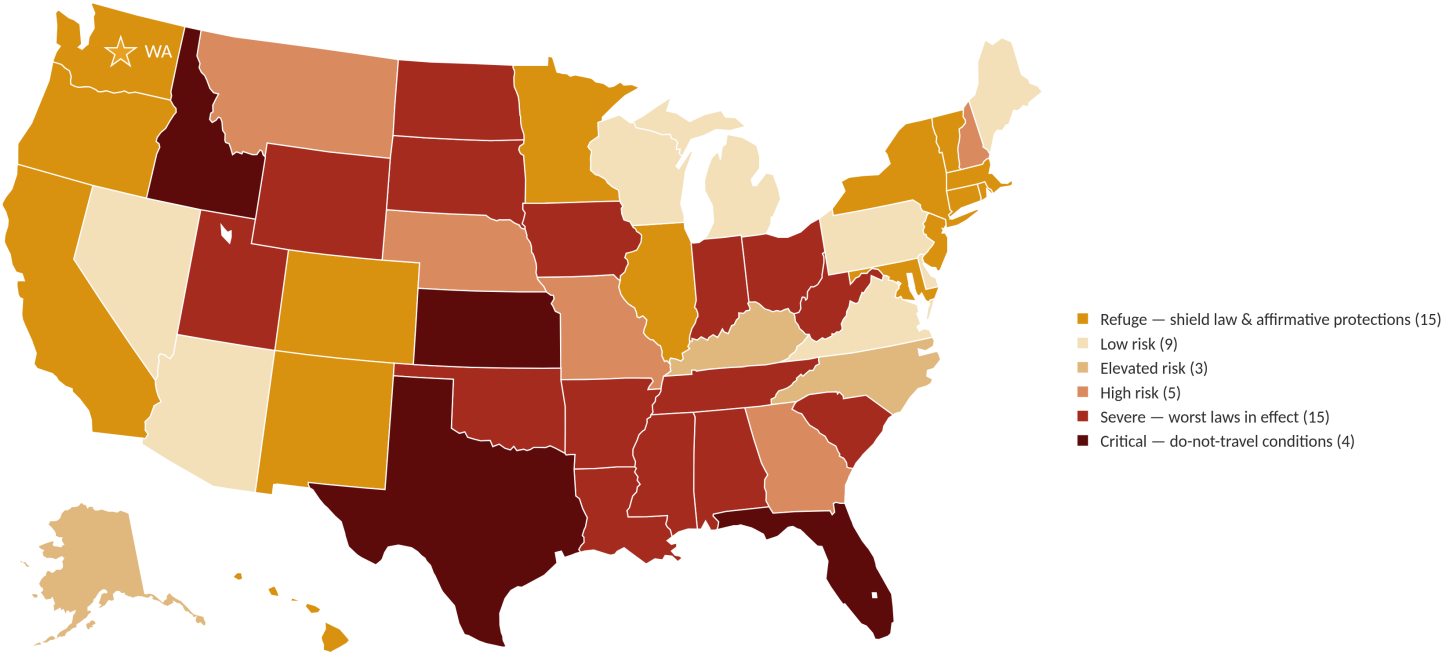
Report: Gender Justice League, *Expelled from Home: Persecution of Transgender Americans, Internal Displacement, and the Road Map for a Resettlement Response* (Seattle: Gender Justice League, July 2026). 54 pages, 92 endnotes, full methodology in Part VII. Dataset available for independent computation.

Two Countries, One Map — GJL Trans Legal Risk Index, July 2026

GJL TRANS LEGAL RISK INDEX · JULY 2026

Two Countries, One Map

Legal risk to transgender residents, by state — six tiers across healthcare, identity documents, public facilities, education, family law, and refuge infrastructure



Tier assignments: Gender Justice League synthesis of the Erin In The Morning national legal risk assessment (July 13, 2026), Movement Advancement Project gender identity policy scores (May 26, 2026), and ACLU 2026 legislative tracking (525+ bills). Critical tier: felony or bounty-enforced facility bans, identity-document revocation, or arrest exposure in daily life (FL, ID, KS, TX). Washington: Refuge tier — Shield Law (ESHB 1469), insurance parity, Apple Health coverage.

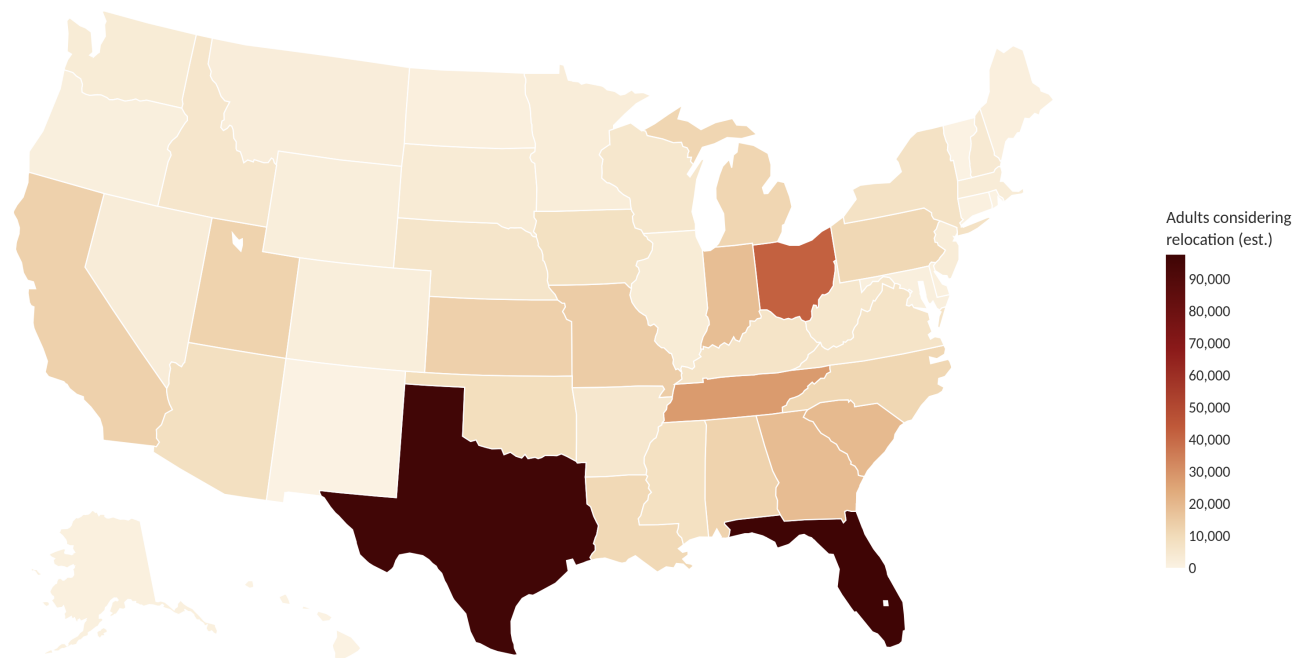
Legal risk to transgender residents by state, six tiers across healthcare, identity documents, public facilities, education, family law, and refuge infrastructure. Critical tier: FL, ID, KS, TX. Washington is Refuge tier. Tier assignments: GJL synthesis of Erin In The Morning legal risk assessment (July 13, 2026), Movement Advancement Project policy scores (May 26, 2026), and ACLU 2026 legislative tracking. Full dataset available from Gender Justice League.

Where the Displacement Pressure Originates — Relocation Demand Model

GJL TRANS LEGAL RISK INDEX · JULY 2026

Where the Displacement Pressure Originates

Estimated transgender adults who have considered or are considering interstate relocation, by state — survey-measured consideration rates, stratified by legal-risk tier, applied to state population estimates



Method: Williams Institute state adult population estimates (Aug. 2025; BRFSS 2021–2023, multilevel regression with poststratification) multiplied by tier-stratified relocation-consideration rates (Critical 60%, Severe 50%, High 40%, Elevated 30%, Low 15%, Refuge 5%), anchored to Williams Institute relocation research (Dec. 2024), the 2022 U.S. Trans Survey, and MAP/NORC household polling (Oct. 2025). National modeled total: ≈562,000 adults.

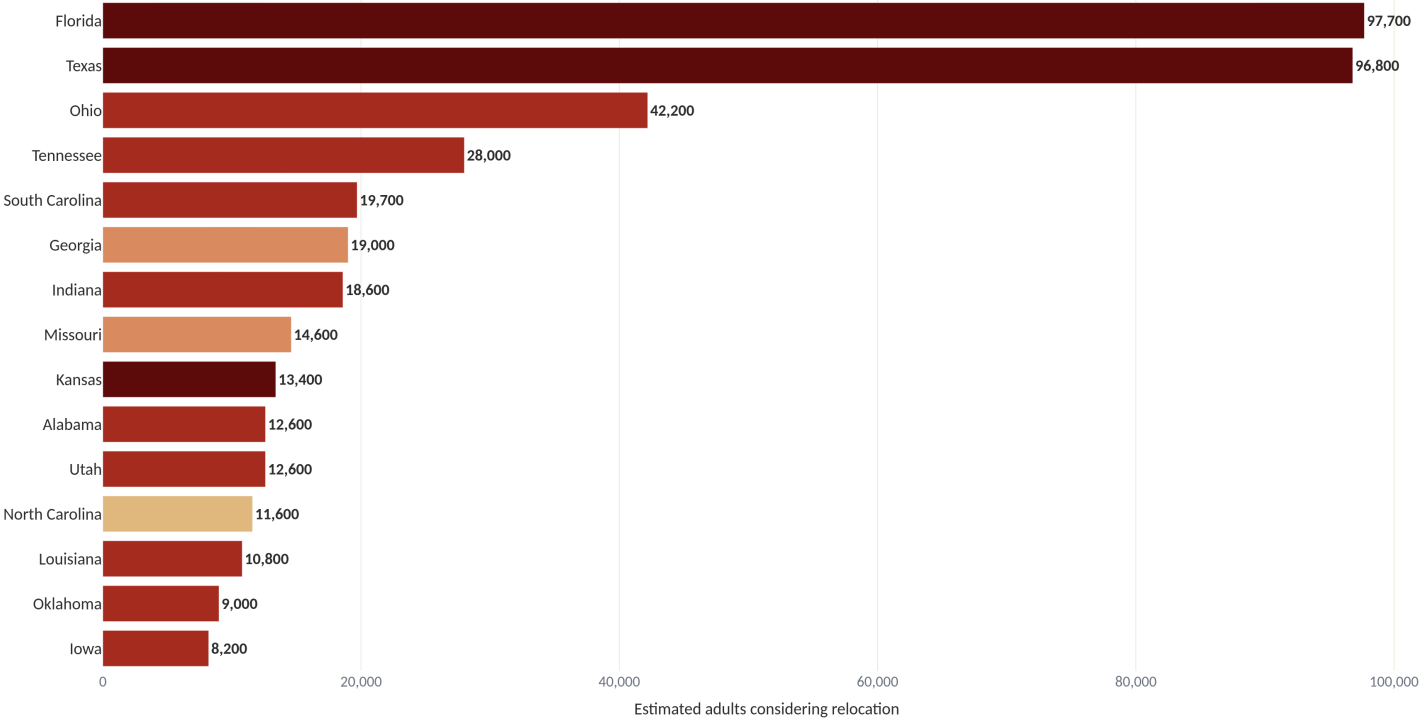
Estimated transgender adults who have considered or are considering interstate relocation, by state: Williams Institute population estimates (Aug. 2025) multiplied by tier-stratified consideration rates, anchored to the Williams relocation study, the 2022 U.S. Trans Survey, and MAP/NORC polling. National modeled total: ≈562,000 adults.

The Fifteen Largest Origin States

FIGURE · RELOCATION DEMAND MODEL

The Fifteen Largest Origin States

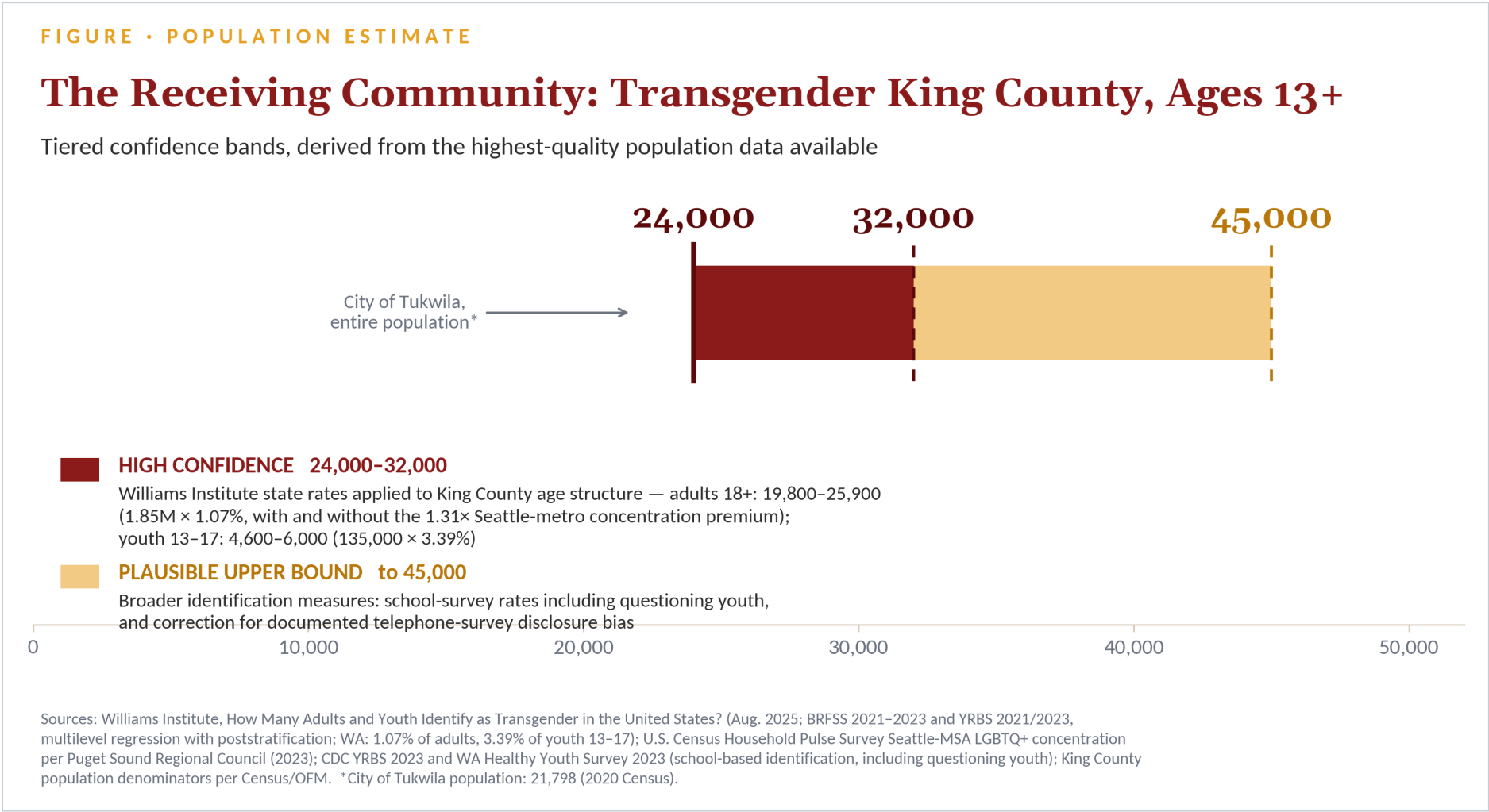
Estimated transgender adults considering interstate relocation, hostile-climate states — Florida and Texas alone account for roughly 194,000



Source: Williams Institute state population estimates (Aug. 2025) × tier-stratified consideration rates anchored to Williams Institute relocation research (Dec. 2024), 2022 U.S. Trans Survey, and MAP/NORC polling (Oct. 2025). Tier colors follow the GJL Trans Legal Risk Index: burgundy = Critical, red = Severe, sienna = High, tan = Elevated. USTS 2022 origin-state reporting (Texas, Florida, Tennessee, Ohio, Missouri most-departed) and Seattle LGBTQ Commission arrival reporting (TX, FL, TN, KS, ID) corroborate the ordering.

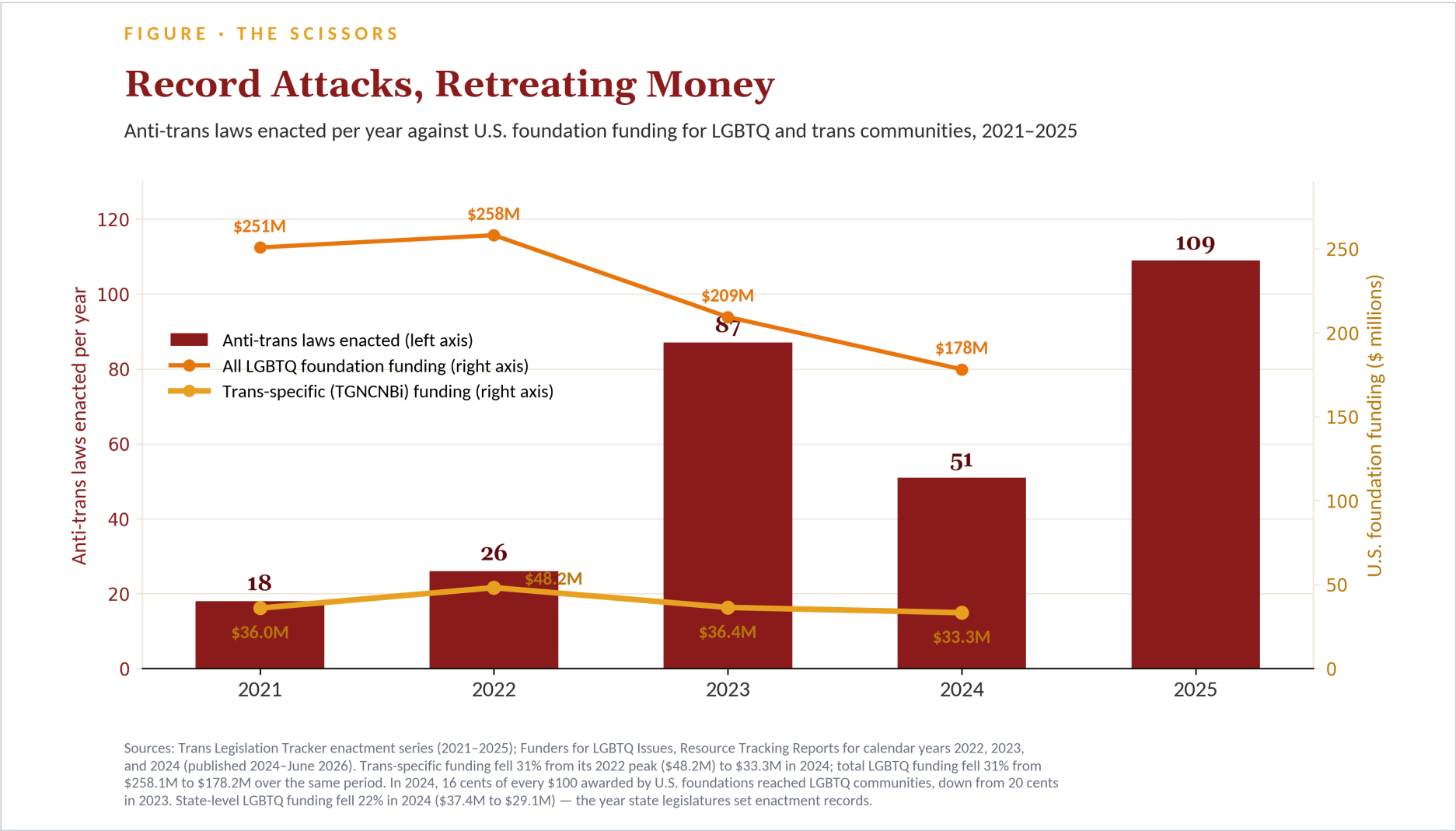
Estimated transgender adults considering relocation from hostile-climate states; Florida and Texas alone account for roughly 194,000. Tier colors follow the GJL Trans Legal Risk Index. USTS origin-state reporting and Seattle LGBTQ Commission arrival reporting corroborate the ordering.

The Receiving Community — Transgender King County, Ages 13+



Tiered confidence bands from the highest-quality population data available. High confidence: 24,000–32,000; plausible upper bound: 45,000. At any point in the range, the population exceeds the entire City of Tukwila (21,798, 2020 Census). Sources: Williams Institute (Aug. 2025); Census Household Pulse Survey per PSRC; CDC YRBS 2023; WA Healthy Youth Survey 2023; Census/OFM denominators.

Record Attacks, Retreating Money — The Scissors



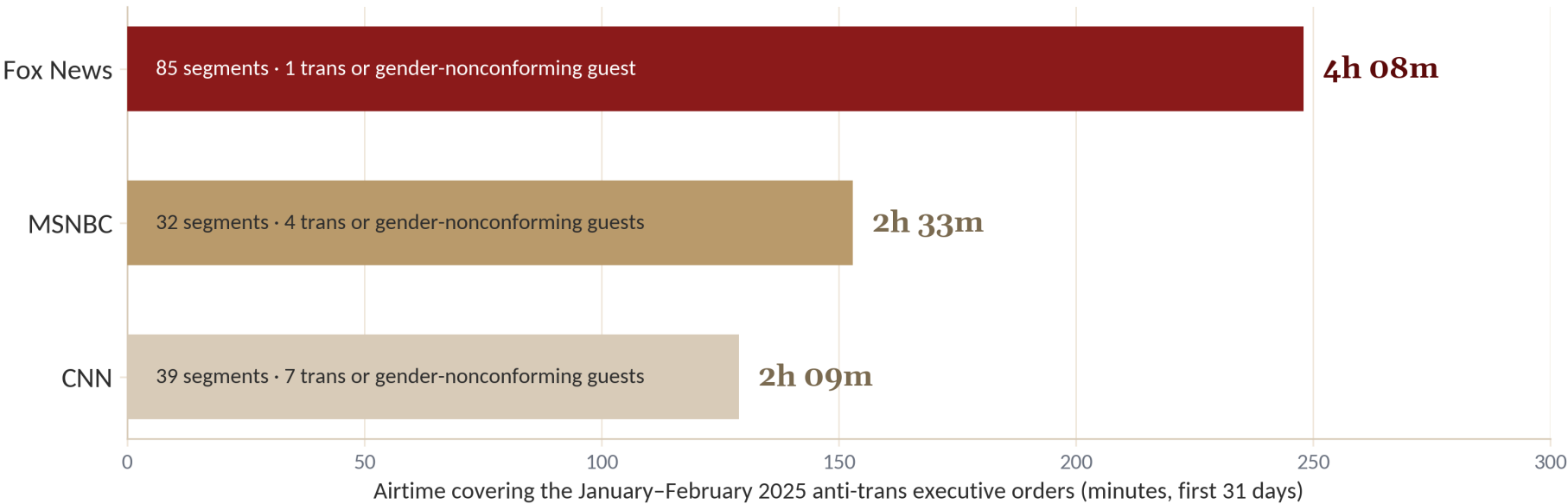
Anti-trans laws enacted per year (Trans Legislation Tracker, 2021–2025) against U.S. foundation funding for LGBTQ and trans communities (Funders for LGBTQ Issues Resource Tracking Reports, 2021–2024). Philanthropy surged once, in 2022, as the first legislative wave broke — then retreated every year since, while enactments set records.

One Network, Nearly Half the Airtime, One Trans Guest — The Amplifier

FIGURE · THE AMPLIFIER

One Network, Nearly Half the Airtime, One Trans Guest

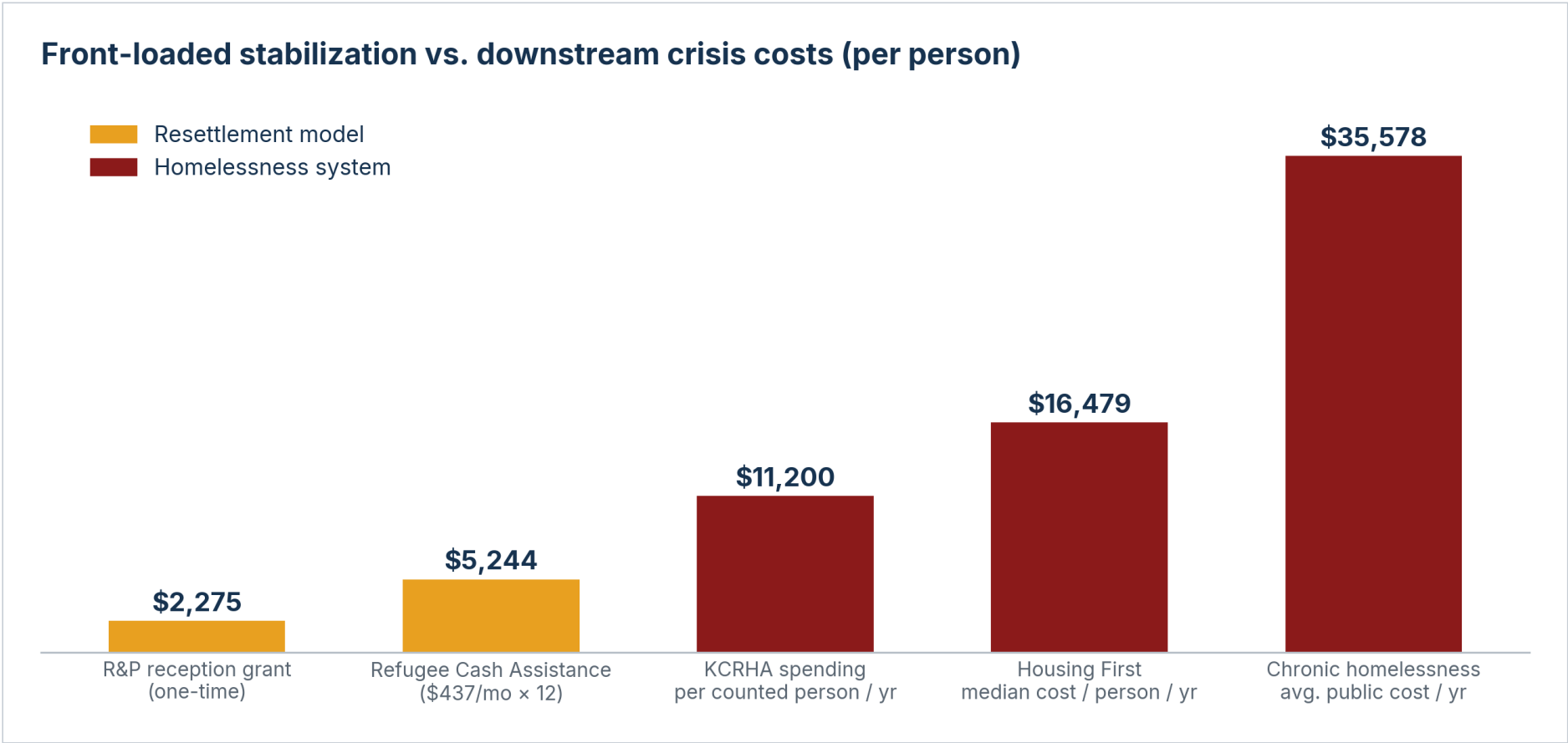
Cable news coverage of the administration's anti-trans executive orders, first 31 days of the second term



Source: Media Matters for America (Mar. 2025). Fox News aired 4h08m across 85 segments — nearly as much as CNN and MSNBC combined — plus 83 teasers; of 86 guest segments across all three networks, 12 (14%) included a trans or gender-nonconforming guest; none of the 22 segments on the care-ban order did, on any network. Fox subsequently aired 424+ weekday segments mentioning trans athletes in the four months following the February 5, 2025 sports executive order (Media Matters, June 2025), and published more articles referencing trans people in 2025 than any other U.S. outlet — more than half of all anti-trans output from the six largest conservative outlets (Kant, Feb. 2026).

Cable news coverage of the administration's anti-trans executive orders, first 31 days of the second term. Fox News aired nearly as much coverage as CNN and MSNBC combined and featured one transgender guest; none of the 22 segments on the healthcare order, on any network, included a transgender voice. Source: Media Matters for America (Mar. 2025).

The Fiscal Comparison — Front-Loaded Stabilization vs. Downstream Crisis Costs



Per-person costs: \$2,275 one-time Reception & Placement grant and \$437/month transitional cash (resettlement model) against ~\$11,200/year per counted person through the regional homelessness agency alone, \$16,479/year median Housing First cost, and ~\$35,578/year average public cost of chronic homelessness. Sources: CRS R47399; DSHS ESA Briefing Book SFY2025; KCRHA proposed 2026 budget ÷ 2026 PIT count; Community Guide systematic review; National Alliance to End Homelessness.

The Demand Curve — Three Instruments, One Surge

FIGURE D • THE RECEPTION SYSTEM UNDER LOAD

The Demand Curve: Three Instruments, One Surge

GJL Community Security Program

Average requests per month

+642%

since 2022

11

2022

95

Twelve
months to
June 2026

TRACTION relocation assistance

People helped to flee hostile states

21×

increase

70

18 months
pre-election

1,500

Since Nov.
2024
election

GJL program appointments

Completed, twelve months ending June 15

+188.5%

year over year

296

2024-25

854

2025-26

Three independent instruments — GJL's own intake records, its scheduling system, and Washington Post reporting on TRACTION — measure the same curve from different angles. Sources: GJL Community Security Program intake records and program analytics, reporting period June 16, 2025–June 15, 2026 (982 requests answered; 854 completed appointments, +188.5% year over year); Washington Post (July 8, 2026) (TRACTION: 1,500 people assisted since the 2024 election vs. roughly 70 in the eighteen months prior; ~400 new requests in the two months before publication). *Expelled from Home*, §3.5.

GENDER JUSTICE LEAGUE • EXPELLED FROM HOME • JULY 2026

GJL Community Security Program requests (+642% since 2022), TRACTION relocation assistance (21× increase since the 2024 election), and GJL program appointments (+188.5% year over year) measure the same curve from three different angles. Sources: GJL program records; Washington Post (July 8, 2026).