



2025

Annual Report

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2025 Impact At-A-Glance



Infrastructure is More Reliable

Hardened core systems + stronger resilience through distributed backups.



Security is Stronger Across the Supply Chain

Trusted Publishing adoption up + multiple real-world threats prevented.



Rust Development Is More Efficient

CI costs cut dramatically without materially slowing build progress.



Contributor Support is Expanding

Funded new Rust program manager position and provided travel and resource grants.



Rust's Global Influence is Rising

Growing recognition in safety-critical industries and increased adoption thanks to advancements in Rust in Linux and C++ interoperability.

Rust is Stronger Than Ever

In 2025, the Rust Foundation, together with our members and collaborators across the Rust Project, strengthened the security and reliability of the ecosystem, supported the contributors who power it, and expanded Rust's global footprint in the systems that matter most.

These wins mark the successful completion of our first strategic cycle (2022–2025) — and they set Rust up for its next decade of sustainable growth and adoption.

In the sections that follow, we break down the initiatives and finances that fueled these results, and the strategic foundation they create for 2026–2028.

2025 Strategic Progress

From 2022–2025, the Rust Foundation executed its first long term strategy: a focused plan to ensure Rust remains reliable, secure, and sustainable as adoption accelerates worldwide. This strategy guided every investment we made across five priorities — strengthening infrastructure and security, supporting the Rust Project and contributors, increasing Rust’s visibility and trust, deepening member engagement, and building a resilient and professional organization.

As we reach the end of this first strategic cycle, the impact is clear. Rust is safer to adopt, the foundation that supports it is well established, and the ecosystem behind it is more globally recognized and resilient than ever before.

The summary below shows how our strategic investments translated into measurable progress for Rust in 2025.

Legend

Pillar

Definition

Outcomes

Highlights

 Infrastructure & Ecosystem Management	 Community Development	 Focused Narrative	 Member Investment	 Expert Stewardship
Maintain and improve the infrastructure and security that allow Rust to be built, distributed, and used safely at global scale.	Support and empower the people and local communities who contribute to, maintain, and grow Rust around the world.	Tell Rust’s story clearly and credibly — helping the world understand where Rust fits, why it matters, and how it is evolving.	Deepen engagement with the organizations that depend on Rust, ensuring their expertise and resources strengthen the ecosystem.	Operate the Rust Foundation professionally, transparently, and responsibly — modeling the governance and stability Rust deserves.
Strengthened the systems that power Rust’s development, releases, and supply chain.	Sponsored global Rust Project members and community meetups; hosted gatherings in North America, the UK, China, and Japan.	Increased industry awareness and trust in Rust.	Collaboration with Rust adopters in industry.	Continued to scale a professional, resilient organization.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 75% CI cost reduction• Daily off-band backups for critical assets• Faster, more reliable releases• Credential hardening + proactive monitoring• Responded to 18 malicious or suspicious crate files this year	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 53 maintainers received travel + resource support• Rust Global events in 3 continents• Awarded 13 grants to support Rust community events• Sponsored 5 events around the world• RustConf reach expanded significantly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safety-critical adoption momentum• C++ interop progress at WG21	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Platinum member (Arm)• Increased member participation in initiatives such as workshops at RustConf to highlight innovations in async and embedded Rust	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High governance, legal + operations compliance• Strong financial oversight (≥ 6mo reserves maintained)• Rust Innovation Lab launched• New capabilities added in outreach + security

Outcome: By reducing key risks and strengthening the Rust ecosystem, the Rust Foundation's first strategic cycle laid the groundwork to support maintainers, secure core infrastructure, and bring Rust to an even broader global community in our next chapter.



To get a closer look at the Rust Foundation Team's activities and progress in 2025, please read our [2025 Progress Summary blog](#).

Responsible Stewardship of the Rust Ecosystem

Throughout 2025, the Rust Foundation continued to approach its financial stewardship with care and intention, focusing on strategic partnerships and thoughtful resource management.

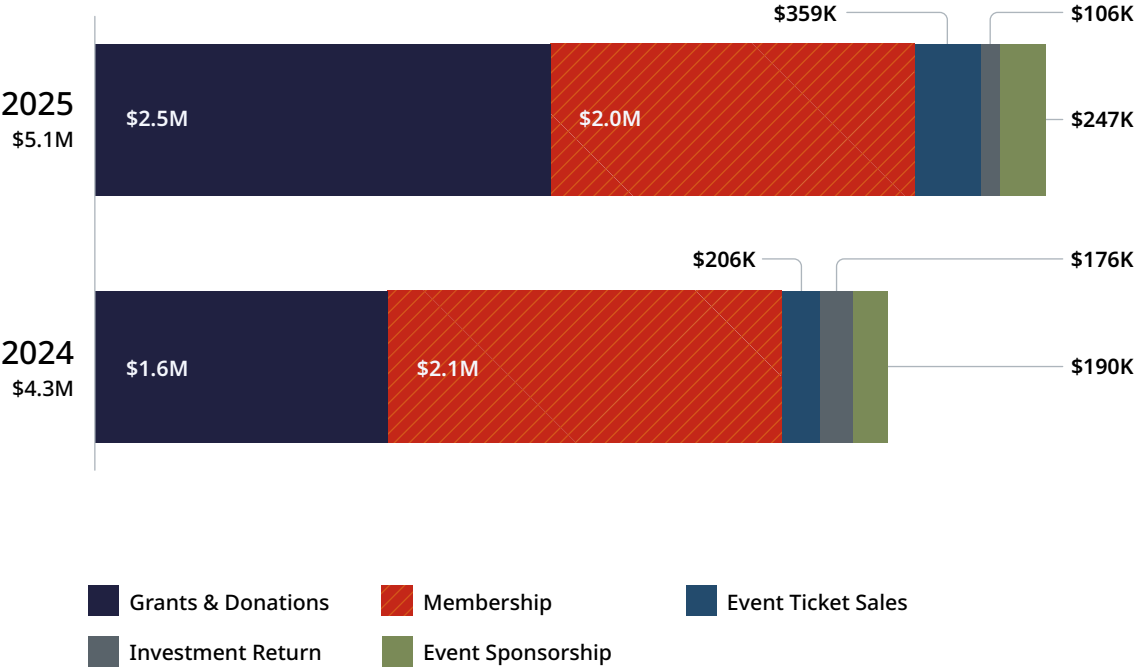
Collaborations with in-kind service providers helped us reduce costs, while our team kept operations lean and ensured maximum efficiency.

We remain committed to funding the work that matters most: the infrastructure that ships releases, the security that protects millions of users, and the maintainers whose expertise keeps Rust healthy every day.

Where Our Funding Comes From

At a time when many companies rely on open source without giving back, our members and donors stand out as responsible partners. They recognize that sustaining Rust is essential to their own success. The Rust Foundation’s work is possible only because of this support, which allows us to focus on the long-term health, stability, and growth of the Rust language and its wider ecosystem.

Income



Definitions

Grants & Donations

Corporate and individual contributions — including restricted program grants.

Membership

Membership dues from companies that support the Foundation and rely on Rust professionally.

Event Ticket Sales

Ticket revenue generated from Rust Foundation-hosted events.

Event Sponsorship

Corporate sponsorship income from Rust Foundation-hosted events.

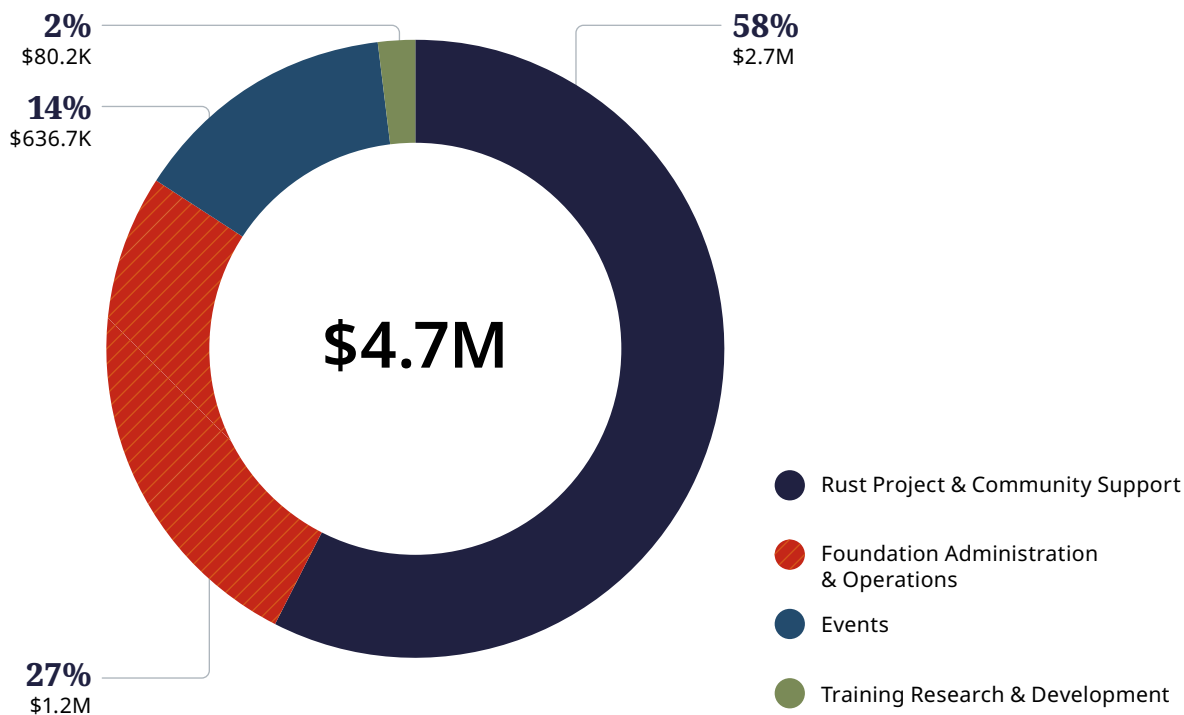
Investment Return

Interest earned from responsibly managing our reserve funds.

How We Invested In Our Mission

In 2025, the majority of our funding went towards what matters most: strengthening Rust and supporting the people who build it. Here’s how we divided up our spending across various areas of need.

2025 Spending Categories



Definitions

Rust Project & Community Support

Funding that keeps the language healthy and secure by directly supporting Rust infrastructure and the people who power it.

Foundation Administration & Operations

Professional governance, financial oversight, and nonprofit management that protect Rust’s long-term stability and ensure the Foundation can support the language responsibly.

Events

The costs of running RustConf, Rust Global, and other Rust Foundation-hosted gatherings that grow adoption and bring Rust contributors and industry together to advance Rust.

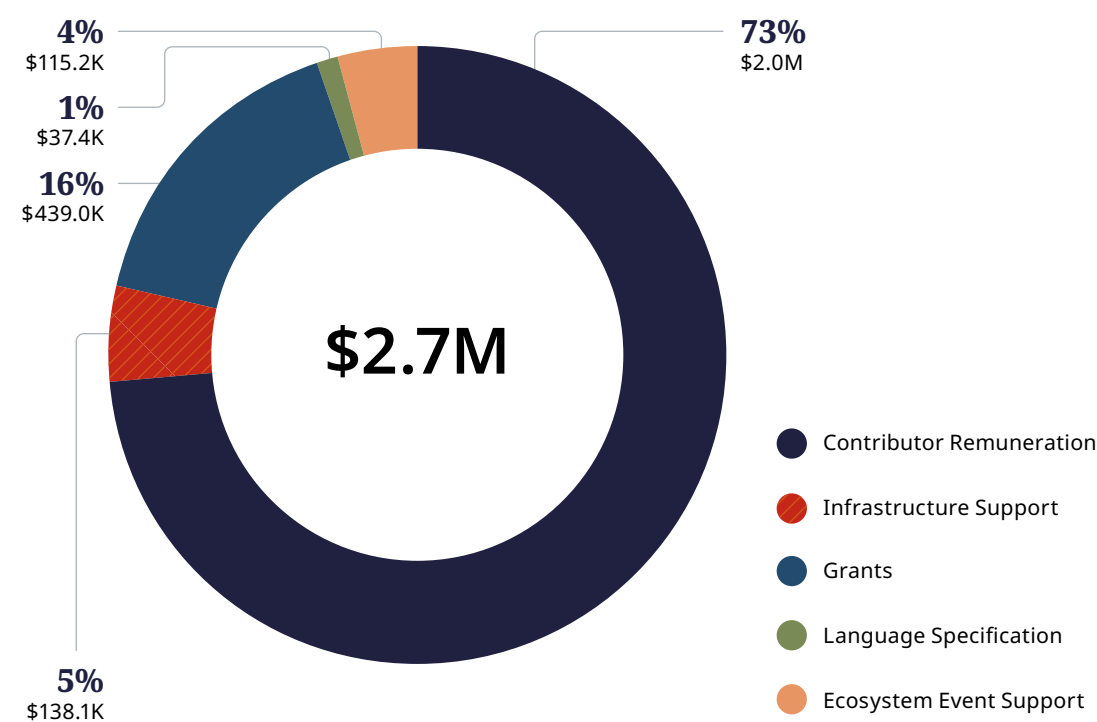
Training Research & Development

Early work to build future Rust learning programs and strengthen the pipeline of contributors and industry-ready Rust developers.

How We Supported the Rust Ecosystem

Here’s a closer look at what our Rust ecosystem spending looked like over the past year.

Rust Ecosystem Support Breakdown



Definitions

Contributor Remuneration

Cost of employing people to work full-time on the Rust programming language — maintaining critical infrastructure, improving security, and running crates.io.

Infrastructure Support

The tools and services that keep Rust running, including storage, build systems, backups, and on-call support.

Grants

Direct funding awarded to Rust project members and contributors — including grants for travel, community events, dedicated work time, and financial hardship support.

Language Specification

Investment in making Rust’s rules fully documented and stable, so the language can be safely used in fields like aerospace, medical systems, and other regulated industries.

Ecosystem Event Support

Financial support of gatherings hosted by Rust community organizers.

Building the future of Rust—together

A letter from our Executive Director & CEO

Strengthening Rust strengthens the digital world we all depend on. Rust is increasingly relied upon in the systems that keep economies running and people safe — from national infrastructure and aerospace to energy, transportation, and public services.

And the good news is: when the Rust ecosystem is supported, Rust gets stronger. The milestones in this report reflect that simple truth.

In 2025, we helped secure the infrastructure Rust relies on and the ecosystem around it. We worked with the Rust Project on essential technical initiatives, expanded our global community reach, created a new home for key projects through the Rust Innovation Lab, and built new momentum in interoperability and safety-critical adoption. These aren't theoretical wins in the first chapter of the Rust Foundation's existence — they are the foundation for a stronger, more scalable Rust ecosystem in the decade ahead.

2026 marks the beginning of the Rust Foundation's next strategic cycle — a pivotal moment to accelerate what's working and scale support for the people and systems that make Rust trusted at a global level. As Rust adoption grows in places where failure is not an option, the responsibility to safeguard its future has never been more important.

To meet this moment — and support Rust's next decade of growth — the Rust Foundation and the tech industry must continue investing intentionally in:

- Reliable, transparent maintainer support
- Secure infrastructure poised to scale
- Global community development
- Professional and critical-systems adoption pathways

Fueling the Next Decade of Rust

Thousands of people and organizations already believe in the power of Rust to build software and systems that are safer, faster, and more reliable. But continuing to build and harness that power requires shared investment in the ecosystem that enables Rust to thrive.

In 2026 and beyond, we're asking organizations that depend on Rust to help power what comes next:

- Join the Rust Foundation as members
- Invest in strategic initiatives like the ones detailed in this report to strengthen the ecosystem
- Support the maintainers who keep Rust secure and sustainable

These investments today will ensure Rust remains strong, secure, and reliable for everyone tomorrow.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Rumbul'.

Dr. Rebecca Rumbul
Rust Foundation Executive Director & CEO

To Our Supporters in 2025: THANK YOU.

Support from Rust Foundation **members** and **donors** is more than philanthropy — it is the engine that keeps Rust secure, reliable, and evolving. Without this critical funding, the Rust Foundation could not invest in open source infrastructure and the people who build it.

By supporting the Rust Foundation, our members and donors play a vital role in strengthening Rust and helping ensure the language remains resilient, well-maintained, and prepared for the future. This work is also made possible by the time and expertise of contributors, maintainers, collaborators, and community volunteers across the ecosystem. Please join us in thanking our supporters, and the many individuals and organizations whose efforts helped keep Rust healthy and growing over the past year.



**Learn more and
get involved**

rustfoundation.org/get-involved



**See how we'll continue
strengthening Rust
in the years ahead**

[Visit our 2026–2028 strategy](#)

