# The Perl and Raku Foundation

Annual report 2025

March 2026

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# Letter from the President

This past year has been one of resilience, growth, and renewed commitment for The Perl and Raku Foundation (TPRF). The year began with financial challenges that required difficult decisions, including an emergency budget to keep essential programmes running.

Through the dedication of our board, volunteers, and donors - including board members who made personal contributions during the tightest months, 2025 became our strongest fundraising year in a decade. With improved financial systems, the Foundation has better data immediately available which this report summarises - transparency and responsible stewardship remain at the heart of our mission and we now have the tools to demonstrate this.

That doesn't mean that we should be complacent; the open source software industry has grown up, and with that, compliance, security and accountability have become essential. For Perl and Raku to remain relevant, the Foundation must ensure that the resources are in place and funded.

> During 2025, we have seen meaningful progress in core language development, community engagement, and ecosystem support. With the dedication of our volunteers, contributors, and donors, TPRF continues its role as a steward of open source innovation and collaboration.

Thank you for your continued belief in the enduring relevance of Perl and the exciting evolution of Raku. Together, we are ensuring both languages remain vibrant, capable, and open for generations to come.

Stuart J. Mackintosh

President

The Perl and Raku Foundation

# About the Foundation

Yet Another Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit foundation registered in North America, doing business as 'The Perl and Raku Foundation'. The Foundation is governed by a volunteer board and supported by a global volunteer community.

The languages themselves are governed separately, having their own technical leadership, roadmaps, and development plans. The Foundation handles everything else - financial stewardship, legal and trademark protection, regulatory compliance, organisational support, and conference production.

## Our Mission

We do the boring but essential work so that volunteers and developers can focus on what they do best. We ensure that the administrative, financial, and legal foundations are in place so that Perl, Raku, and their ecosystems remain freely available and actively developed.

# Year in Review

## Board and Governance

The board met twelve times during 2025 and passed nine formal motions. Two meetings were deferred (June and August) and held in the following months.

At the beginning of the year, Makoto Nozaki stepped down from his long-held role as Secretary of the Foundation, and ended his time on the Board. Bruce Gray has stepped up to take on that role.

Treasurer Peter Krawczyk turned over much of the day-to-day financial operations for the Foundation to Ruth Holloway, who served as co-Treasurer with Peter. In January 2026, she took over as Treasurer, with Peter continuing as co-Treasurer.

Ruth Holloway was appointed in January to the position of Chair of Community Engagement. In this role, she organizes the Perl and Raku Community Roundtable, and leads other outreach efforts as they arise, to encourage and build our communities.

A new community grants chair has been appointed for 2026, with community grants brought back after a period of review. A new board member candidacy has been formally announced and the board will vote shortly on the appointment.

The board developed formal recruitment criteria for new members, requiring an expected commitment of eight hours per month, familiarity with Perl or Raku, and a constructive approach to governance. A list of potential candidates was compiled, and outreach has begun.

During 2025, TPRF extended its 'Perl and Raku Foundation' DBA and will review again following the completion of the EU Raku Foundation which is being established interdependently in the Netherlands; TPRF continues to maintain a collaborative relationship with this initiative.

## Perl Core Development

The Perl Steering Council (PSC) continues to guide development of the language, with TPRF providing targeted funding through core developer grants. The core grants process was simplified during the year, resulting in greater transparency, quicker reporting from grant recipients, and faster disbursements to core maintainers. A dedicated grant manager now oversees the process, verifying peer review of work before payments are approved.

A major milestone this year is the addition of native object-oriented programming (OOP) to Perl core. This is a significant modernization of the language, making Perl more accessible to new developers, and is particularly timely as AI-assisted coding tools increasingly favor languages with clear, structured syntax.

Native OOP support positions Perl well for this new era of automated code generation, which will accelerate once the license issues with generated code are better understood across our industry.

The "XS" Perl-to-C language interface has been heavily reworked and modernized internally, with the XS parser and the XS reference manual both having been largely rewritten.

Other areas of ongoing core work include the addition of named parameters to subroutine signatures, improving performance and security, and addressing long-standing language quirks that the PSC has been systematically removing. The Perl interpreter continues to be one of the fastest scripting runtimes, with further optimization work planned around subroutine calling. Over 500 tickets were worked on, leading to code changes, documentation updates and improved tooling.

Perl re-entered the TIOBE index top 10 during 2025, rising from 27th place to reach 9th by August - the first time in the top 10 since 2018. It currently sits around position 11, reflecting sustained and growing industry relevance.

## The Perl and Raku Module Ecosystem

The Comprehensive Perl Archive Network (CPAN) and its Raku equivalent remain among the most important assets in the Perl and Raku ecosystems, providing thousands of freely available libraries and frameworks that developers depend on daily. The Foundation supports this ecosystem through several initiatives.

TPRF provided logistical support for MetaCPAN - the primary search and discovery interface for CPAN modules - through hosting and managed services in the UK, with further infrastructure investments underway. Documentation improvements in the Dancer2 web framework were also funded during the year.

The Foundation sponsored the Perl Toolchain Summit, bringing together core leaders in the Perl ecosystem for concentrated effort on the tools and infrastructure that underpin CPAN, including installers, testing frameworks, and distribution systems.

The CPANSec working group is the Perl ecosystem's response to the current supply-chain challenges, and the 2025 budget included for the first time a dedicated allocation to support their work. CPANSec is spearheading efforts on EU regulatory alignment - particularly in relation to the Cyber Resilience Act (CRA) - and improvements to the security of the module ecosystem. The CPANSec working group achieved CVE Numbering Authority status for both Perl and Raku, which gives the ecosystem direct control over how vulnerabilities are cataloged and communicated and is essential to comply with this upcoming EU regulation.

> ❶ Supply chain security has become an increasingly urgent concern across the software industry, with frequent compromises affecting package repositories including npm, PyPI, and RubyGems.

Community grants have been revived for 2026 with a $10,000 budget and a new grants committee chair, providing a pathway for contributors across the ecosystem to propose and receive funding for improvements to CPAN modules, tooling, documentation, and other community projects.

## Raku Language Evolution

Raku continues to mature, with an expanding community of developers, educators, and advocates. This year's highlights include:

- New releases of Rakudo, the primary Raku compiler, improving speed and Unicode handling
- Growth in ecosystem module availability, making Raku more versatile than ever
- Continued progress on RakuAST, enabling more predictable parsing and meta-programming capabilities
- Sponsorship of a community hackathon advancing tooling and documentation

## Conferences and Community Engagement

The 2025 edition of The Perl and Raku Conference (TPRC) was hosted in Greenville, SC, with 47 attendees. When five speakers canceled at short notice, the team adapted by converting to a single-track format, demonstrating the community's resourcefulness. The conference generated a net profit of approximately $2,000, and an additional $1,000 was raised for a local food bank donation. Recorded talks are now available online, ensuring open access to knowledge.

The Foundation was present at FOSDEM 2025, the largest free and open source developer meeting in Europe, with a well-positioned stand. Raku posters and books proved particularly popular.

The monthly Community Roundtable was established as a regular forum for sub-communities to share updates and seek support. A new YouTube channel has been

created for Foundation-specific content, and roundtable summaries are published on the Foundation blog.

## New Website and Communications

The Foundation website has been migrated to a modern platform (GitHub Pages with Hugo), with improved sponsor information and clearer pathways for those wishing to support Perl and Raku. The site now recognises in-kind sponsorships alongside financial contributions, and includes a permanent Slack link and links to other places to engage with the community, making it easier than ever for newcomers and existing community members to connect.

## Fundraising

During March 2025, the Foundation's cash position required the board to enact a three-month emergency budget from April to June, capping programme spend at $15,000 to keep essential operations running. Board members made personal donations during this period to ensure continuity.

The turnaround came through a combination of sustained outreach and growing recognition of the Foundation's role. The board is grateful to Olaf Alders, who has taken on the role of fundraiser supported by a stipend, and whose efforts have been instrumental in reinvigorating the Foundation's donation pipeline and helping secure a strong fundraising year. This included significant corporate contributions alongside individual donations and in-kind support.

Looking ahead, the board has adopted a three-pronged fundraising strategy for 2026: corporate donors, micro-donors through the Foundation's mailing list and donation portal, and strategic grants including European funding opportunities.

# Financial Summary (in USD)

Managing finances is one of the core duties of the Foundation. During the year, the Foundation transitioned to an accounting, donor-management, and grant-management package donated by Foundant Technologies, one of several in-kind donations now recognised on the Foundation website.

**Net Assets (end of year):** $121,618.27

> Key financial activities include:
>
> A financial reserves policy was established to ensure long-term stability. Bank accounts were consolidated and multi-currency accounts in EUR and GBP set up through Wise, enabling faster and more cost-effective international payments. Grant recipients now benefit from improved timeliness of payments across multiple currencies. The annual IRS Form 990 was filed on time and new general liability insurance secured.

## Key financial measures for the year

Total income for the year was $253,744.86. Corporate sponsorship accounted for the large majority at 78%, reflecting the success of the Foundation's renewed fundraising efforts.
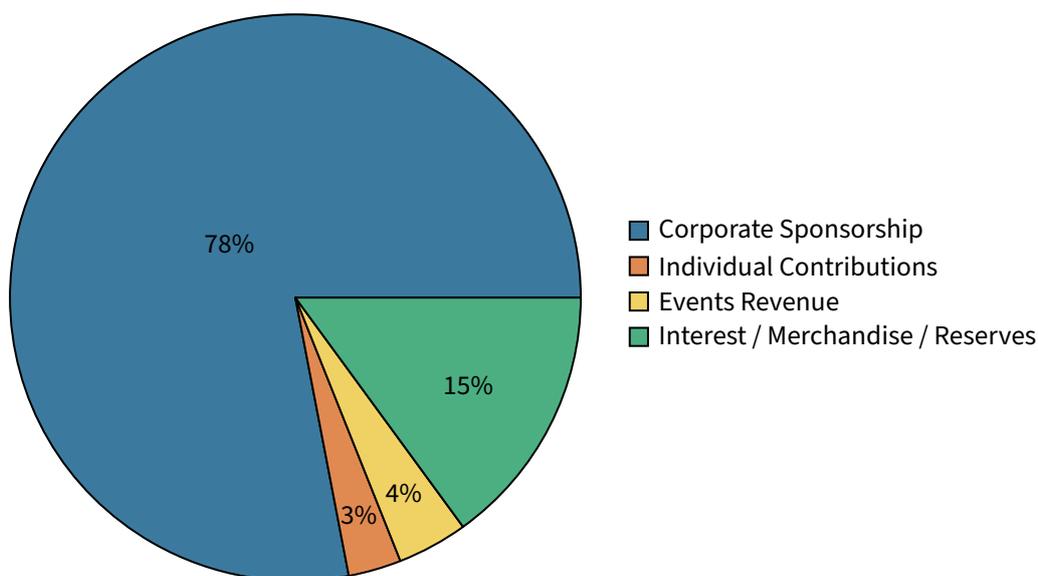


- Corporate Sponsorship
- Individual Contributions
- Events Revenue
- Interest / Merchandise / Reserves

**Figure 1:** Total Income: $253,744.86

Total expenditure was $233,739.75. Programme expenses represented 92% of all spending, demonstrating that the vast majority of funds are directed to the Foundation's core purpose. Administration and fundraising each accounted for 4%.
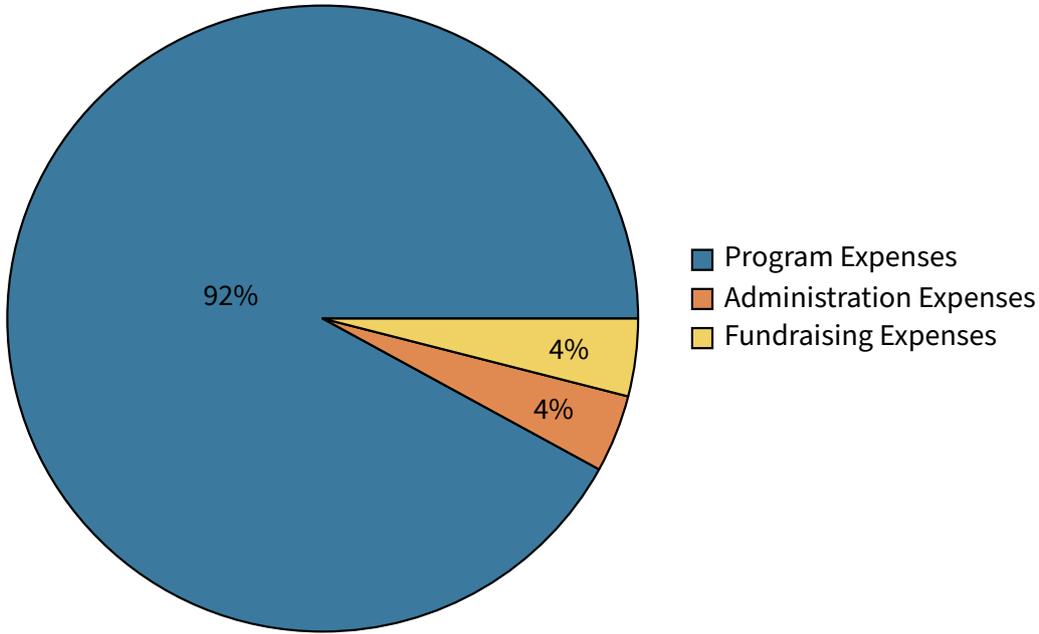
**Figure 2:** Total Expense: $233,739.75

Of the $214,111.09 in programme expenses, Perl core maintenance received the largest share at 54%, followed by events and Raku core development each at 16%. Perl community grants accounted for 5% and infrastructure support 8%.
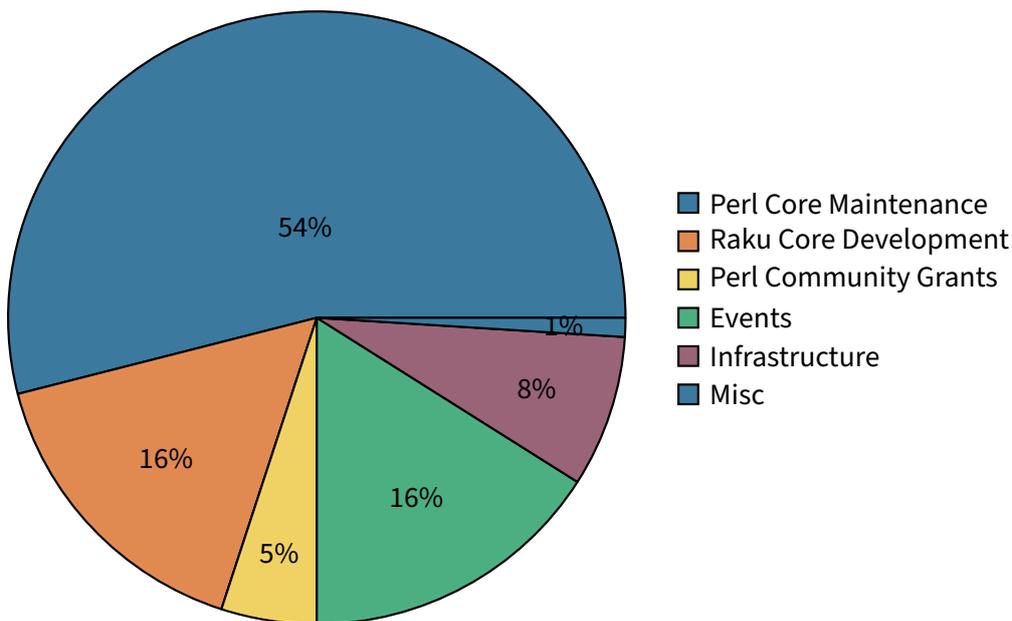
**Figure 3:** Program Expenses: $214,111.09

# Changes in Our Industries

## Supply Chain Risks

Frequent compromises of package repositories across the software industry - npm, PHP, PyPI, RubyGems, and others - highlight the importance of supply chain security. The Perl ecosystem's investment in CPANSec positions it well against these growing threats.

## EU and International Regulation

The European Union has introduced significant new regulation affecting open source software, including the Cyber Resilience Act, software liability provisions, the AI Act, and NIS2. The UK and US are expected to follow with similar frameworks. These regulations create both compliance requirements and opportunities for well-governed open source projects to demonstrate their reliability and security posture.

## FOSS Funding Landscape

The broader FOSS funding landscape is changing. Whilst many foundations face financial difficulties, new funding opportunities and models are emerging. Recognition that open source runs almost all things digital is driving increased public and private investment. The reconfiguration of Horizon Europe and new programs to support FOSS security in both Europe and the USA are expected to create further opportunities.

# Looking Ahead

As we enter the next year, our goals are clear:

- Expand developer grant opportunities for both Perl and Raku, building on the revived community grants program
- Raise funds specifically for Perl security work and EU policy alignment
- Modernize outreach and education materials for new learners and experienced developers
- Develop materials demonstrating Perl's strong compatibility with AI coding tools, addressing perception gaps in the investment community
- Strengthen partnerships with other open source organizations
- Continue ensuring the sustainability of CPAN and core infrastructure, via funding for the CPANSec team and the Perl NOC
- Further invest in MetaCPAN infrastructure
- Pursue registration as a Digital Public Good and explore Digital Public Infrastructure recognition
- Continue developing the sponsor and donor programme, building on 2025's fundraising success

TPRC 2026 is confirmed for the final weekend of June in Greenville, SC, with preliminary planning underway for TPRC 2027 at the University of Waterloo in Canada.

> Perl's 40th birthday is approaching, and the Foundation is planning celebrations to mark this milestone - a testament to the enduring relevance and adaptability of the language.

With your continued support, we will carry forward the legacy of innovation and collaboration that defines the Perl and Raku communities.

## Thank You to Our Donors and Sponsors

We extend heartfelt thanks to the individuals, companies, and organizations whose generosity makes our work possible. Every contribution - whether through code, funds, or time - keeps the spirit of open source alive.

Together, we are not just maintaining code. We are nurturing a living, evolving ecosystem.

# How Can I Support the Foundation?

There are many ways that you can help us.

**Volunteer** The Foundation is always seeking out volunteers to help with the work we do - whether it's helping the conference team, talking about the Foundation's work on social media and in blogs, or helping raise funds, we'll be happy to find a use for your skills and desire to assist. Join the monthly TPRF community roundtable call if you want to get involved.

**Donate** Visit https://perlfoundation.org/donate.html for information on how to support the Foundation, including one-time or ongoing donations. Just $5 per month can make a difference, as your $60 will pay for one hour's work by one of our core grant recipients. Companies wishing to donate larger amounts should contact the Treasurer at treasurer@perlfoundation.org for invoicing and bank transfer details.

**Sponsor, or nominate a sponsor** Who benefits from Perl and Raku? If your organization relies on these languages, please consider corporate sponsorship. Visit the sponsor pages on the website for more details https://perlfoundation.org/how-do-sponsors-benefit.html

**Connect** Join the community on Slack, follow us on social media, and engage with the wider Perl and Raku communities through their many channels - https://perlfoundation.org/get-involved.html

The Perl and Raku Foundation 2025 Annual Report

Yet Another Society, d/b/a The Perl and Raku Foundation is a United States 501(c)(3) non-profit organisation. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.