

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITIES DURING COVID-19

The corona virus pandemic revealed life-threatening inequities in communities across the United States. The IAF deployed a relationship-centered response, shifting face-to-face meetings on-line to listen, research and strategically act, thus working to maintain the bonds of community and act decisively to respond to the needs of our families and neighbors. The results? Leaders across the IAF used collective power to launch heroic efforts nationwide and address aspects of the crises that the pandemic created.



In response to the federal government's exclusion of taxpaying, undocumented immigrants from pandemic relief, the **California IAF** succeeded in leveraging the expansion of the state Earned Income Tax Credit program to include 600,000 undocumented immigrant workers for credits up to \$125 million.

IAF affiliates in **AZ, MA, MD, NJ, NY, & OH** won increases in available COVID testing and test sites serving over 60,000 people in our hardest hit communities including an agreement designed and implemented by **Metro IAF-NY** and signed by Governor Cuomo, which opened walk-in Covid-19 testing sites in 75 churches across **NYC** utilized by over 47,000 people.

In the early days of the pandemic, **Colorado IAF** persuaded the Governor to expand the definition of "essential workers" to include front-line food and grocery workers, with protections that included emergency paid leave and child care, benefiting 20,000 grocery and commercial food processing workers across the state.

Scarcity brought price gouging and none was more apparent than 3M's N95 mask sales that affected front-line healthcare and other workers in our institutions. **CT, IL, MA, MD, NY, OH & VA IAF** organized 20 state attorneys general and 3M shareholders with \$13+ billion under management to secure changes in 3M's distribution and pricing practices.

Metro IAF-NY pushed elected officials to permit religious institutions to apply to the SBA for loans resulting in \$5 million in PPP loans for over 30 institutions; **Fox River Valley Initiative** leaders in **IL** organized an increase of \$2 million in funds directed to local non-profit organizations.

Community Purchasing Alliance in **DC** along with affiliates across **Metro IAF**, banded together to create a pipeline for Personal Protective Equipment purchasing that resulted in over \$2 million in supply contracts (40% of contracts went to Black and Brown small businesses).



WHO WE ARE

The Industrial Areas Foundation, founded in 1940, by Saul Alinsky, is the nation's largest and longest-standing network of local faith and community based power organizations. The IAF works with religious congregations, and other local institutions, to build broad-based non-partisan citizen power organizations which create new capacity in a community for leadership development, citizen-led action and relationships across lines that often divide our communities.

The IAF created the modern model of broad-based organizing and is widely recognized as having the strongest track record in the nation for citizen leadership development and for helping congregations and other institutions to act on their missions to achieve lasting change in the world.

The IAF, which includes Metro IAF and West/Southwest IAF, currently works with thousands of religious congregations, non-profits, civic organizations, unions, small businesses, healthcare institutions, schools and other educational institutions in more than sixty-five cities across the United States and in Australia, Canada, Germany, Italy, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

2020 VICTORIES

REBUILDING OUR DEMOCRACY

Months of strictly non-partisan GOTV efforts by IAF affiliates resulted in increasing voter turnout and protecting the vote in historically low-performing precincts in **AZ, CO, LA, NC, OH, TX** and **WI**. **Together Louisiana** successfully blocked passage of



Common Ground, WI

Constitutional Amendment 5 which would have empowered major corporations to side-step state reforms and negotiate tax breaks directly with smaller municipalities. **Together LA** strategically engaged and educated voters in historically low turnout neighborhoods that resulted in 63% of **LA** voters opposing the amendment.

NC Congress of Latino Organizations reached over 273,000 people in the Latino community resulting in an increase of voters in **NC**; 1,000 leaders in **Common Ground** joined key players from the Milwaukee Bucks to increase the vote in Milwaukee, **WI**; **Greater Cleveland Congregations** in **OH** succeeded in making sure 7,000 previously rejected ballot applications were accepted. Most importantly, leaders established a foundation for long-term neighborhood engagement built on conversations and institutional trust.

IAF is building out and expanding its power with exploratory efforts in: **NC, OH** and **VA** including rural areas in each state as well as in **MI**, Northern **NV**, Arkansas and the Silicon Valley, Fresno and Yolo, **CA**. IAF launched 3 new affiliates in 2020: **ONE Wake** in **NC**, **QUEENS Power** in **NY** and **Prince Georges Leadership Action Network** in **MD**. Over 5,900 people from 120 new member institutions attended the founding actions for these organizations..

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM & RACIAL JUSTICE

Greater Boston Interfaith Organization secured passage of an historic law which addresses police misconduct, deadly force and accountability, bringing **MA** forward as a national leader in police accountability reform. **Congregations for a New Connecticut** pushed and won new regulations for police accountability that include more diversity, decertification due to misconduct, and exhausting all alternatives before the use of deadly force.



VA Resident License Restored

VOICE in **VA** delivered justice to 627,000 Virginians whose drivers licenses were restored after being suspended over unpaid court debt and an unprecedented win for residents of Prince William County, **VA**, a majority people of color county, as they opened the first Public Defender office.

Organizers in **AZ, MA, NC & NJ** won increased testing for thousands of incarcerated people in state prisons and prison guards and pushed for early release of individuals that had served the majority of their time and met other qualifications to reduce prison populations and exposure to COVID-19. **East Brooklyn Congregations** in **NY** began work with formerly incarcerated individuals, helping find affordable housing, living wage jobs, mental health aid, and legal representation.

Amidst a nationwide reckoning with state-sponsored racial oppression, **Working Together Mississippi** called on the state legislature to officially retire the state flag which included a symbol of the Confederacy. Leaders from all walks of faith worked together to successfully pressure state legislators to retire and re-design a new flag that better represents the state.



New Mississippi Flag

AFFORDABLE HOUSING & SUSTENANCE IN THE MIDST OF UNCERTAINTY

After the economic shutdown caused sharp reductions in family income, IAF organizations stepped into the void to leverage relief for economically stressed families by winning eviction moratoriums and CARES Act funding for rental relief.



COPS/Metro Alliance, TX

Texas IAF organizations succeeded in winning over \$328 million for added rental and housing relief for more than 120,000 families, including providing eligibility for undocumented immigrant residents. In addition, IAF organizations in **CA, DC, MA, MD, NC, NY, OK & VA** secured over \$150 million for rental assistance including **ONE Wake**'s victory in which Wake County public officials directed \$20 million from the CARES Act to homelessness and eviction prevention efforts in **NC**.

Metro IAF's campaign to revitalize our country's most dis-invested communities and build/preserve affordable homes in high-cost areas continued to grow in 2020 in **DC, IL, MA, MD, NC, NJ, NY & VA**. **Metro IAF** developed/financed/preserved over 15,900 housing units directly and through organizing. **Metro IAF** also leveraged \$1.1 billion in public money through organizing for housing development.

To stop **NE** payday lenders from preying upon pandemic-stressed borrowers, **Omaha Together One Community** helped pass Initiative 428, saving approximately 57,000 families \$21 million per year in payments by capping interest rates at 36%, rather than 387% per year.

Affiliates in **MD, NJ**, and **NY** organized over \$7 million resulting in jobs, saved businesses and the distribution of over 3.5 million meals. **Texas** IAF organizations leveraged close to \$21 million in cash and food support for 12,208 families. In Dallas, **TX**, parishes serving immigrant communities provided essential sustenance to 8,000 families. In **IA**, **AMOS** secured five additional school meal sites at apartment complexes housing refugee families and their children, and also raised over \$215,000 in emergency funds for 1,100 Story County, **IA** immigrants left out of federal stimulus disbursement. **Coloradans for the Common Good** worked with local public schools to triple school meals available during the winter break and **NJ Together** secured more than 2,000 additional free meals for low-income students.

2020 VICTORIES

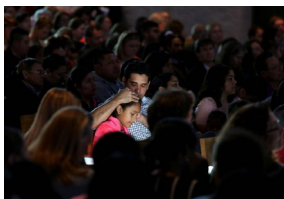
IMMIGRATION POLICY REFORM

By retooling leadership training for remote-participation, the **West / Southwest IAF** built upon relationships established through the *Recognizing the Stranger* strategy and continued Spanish-language training engaging native-born allies to support public action that resulted in significant gains for immigrants including: expansion of the **CA** Earned Income Tax Credit program to include 600,000 working undocumented immigrants; eligibility for hundreds of millions of dollars in pandemic relief across **TX**; hundreds of millions of dollars for **AZ** public schools -- the main source of education for 138,000 children of undocumented immigrants; and tens of millions of dollars in **CO** public school tech to bridge the digital divide for low-income and undocumented students.



Valley Interfaith, TX

NC Congress of Latino Organizations won commitments from **NC** Governor Cooper to: veto legislation that would have deputized Sheriffs to detain individuals by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE); increase testing and vaccination for farm and poultry workers impacted by COVID-19; and include the provision of cultural and linguistic appropriate services and interpretation as part of the \$30 billion Medicaid transformation.



NC Congress of Latino Organizations

JOBS, CLEAN ENERGY & PREPARING FOR A POST-PANDEMIC FUTURE

Foreseeing that the pandemic would accelerate economic dislocation, **COPS/Metro** in San Antonio, **TX**, leveraged \$114 million in City and County CARES Act funding to expand workforce development training for 15,000 recently laid-off workers. Leaders furthermore put a proposition on the ballot to secure an additional \$154 million to support the training of 50,000 displaced workers into higher paying careers. 'Ready to Work SA' passed with 77% support in the November election. Much of 'Ready to Work SA' funds will go to award-winning labor market intermediary *Project Quest*, which **COPS/Metro** established to transition low-wage workers into high-demand, high-wage careers through strategic training and support.



COPS/Metro, TX

Within the first month of the pandemic in **IA**, **AMOS** compelled the **IA** Workforce Development Department to hire 100 more staff to increase access to their services. Leaders additionally secured \$5 million in CARES Act funding for job training to retrain recently displaced lowwans for higher demand jobs.

Businesses and congregations are recognizing the benefits of replacing old equipment through energy efficiency retrofits to save money, reduce carbon emissions and to create jobs. **BlocPower**, **NY** State Energy Research and Development Authority and the **Community Purchasing Alliance** are partnering with **Metro IAF-NY** to retrofit churches, residences and small businesses with more energy efficient heating systems in order to reduce carbon emissions and create green jobs. Through this partnership **Metro IAF** affiliates are saving money on solar installations through group energy buying discounts. **Metro IAF** is exploring expanding this partnership with **BlocPower** and **CPA** to **DC**, **IL**, **MA**, and **WI**.

Washington Interfaith Network won a commitment from electric power company **PEPCO** to create 100-120 jobs per year for **DC** residents; raise prevailing union wages for underground utility employees, contractors and subcontractors; and invest close to \$30 million in Black businesses in **DC**.

POWER

ACTION

JUSTICE

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