

FIGHTING FOR THE EDUCATION OUR CHILDREN DESERVE

School budgets are being slashed across the country compromising our children's education and safety. Budget cuts are eliminating teachers and support staff; increasing class size; decreasing mental health services; cutting creative arts & gym; closing down school libraries; and defunding after school programs. **Metro IAF** is fighting for our children to get the education they deserve in a safe space. **Metro IAF** affiliates in **MD, NC, NJ, OH & VA** are working to increase school funding; raise teacher-to-student and counselor-to-student ratios; increase funding for after-school programming; educate incarcerated youth; and secure the hiring of bilingual interpreters in schools with a high percentage of students and families that speak a language other than English. **Common Ground** has been recognized by the US Dept of Education for rehailing a \$7 million-a-year federally-mandated after-school tutoring program in Milwaukee, **WI** by raising the tutor to student ratios which created gains 2-3 times larger in reading and math than tutoring programs in other school districts.

2019 HIGHLIGHTS



AIM wins \$60 million to Rebuild Schools

In Montgomery County, MD students, parents, teachers, school leaders, and community members organized by **Action in Montgomery (AIM)** demanded the Board of Education provide equitable funding to renovate two long-neglected elementary schools. After two years of organizing and this final push of support, the Board of Education voted to commit \$60 million to rebuild Burnt Mills and South Lake Elementary Schools, two of the highest-poverty schools in Montgomery County.

AIM Wins \$5 million Expansion for After-School Program

AIM sought and secured the expansion of Excel Beyond the Bell Elementary (EBBE), a free after-school program that serves low-income students with 2 hours of in-school quality academic and enrichment activities and dinner. With this expansion, EBBE has almost doubled in size, from 6 to 10 of the county's highest-poverty schools, serving 1,200 students.

VOICE Wins \$ 12.5 million in Virginia's State Budget to Fund School Counselors

Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement (VOICE) secured a down payment of \$12.5 million towards the \$90 million needed to raise the school counselor-to-student ratio to 1:250 in VA. The ratio in many elementary schools is now 1:500. Governor Northam committed the full \$90M over three years in his future budgets.



PATH Wins \$1 million in School Mental Health Services

Youth from the **People Acting Together in Howard County (PATH) - Teen Interfaith Initiative** fought for and won \$1 million in mental health services funding in Howard County Public Schools System. **PATH** adult leaders worked with students and the Superintendent to fund resources specifically targeted to African-American and Hispanic students in the graduation achievement gap.

connect . act . win

24 Organizations in: CT, DC, IL, MA, MD, NC, NJ, OH, NY, VA, WI
Affiliated with the Industrial Areas Foundation



2019 HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

VOICE Working to Expand After-School & Head Start

Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement (VOICE) held candidate accountability actions with state, county, and municipal candidates from Prince William, Fairfax, Arlington, and Alexandria between May and October with over 1,700 leaders, winning commitments to: Expand after-school and Head Start/pre-k education in Prince William, Fairfax, Arlington, and Alexandria.

BUILD Secures \$120 million Commitment from Baltimore Mayor Young for Funding Increase

Baltimoreans United In Leadership Development (BUILD) demanded and won an historic increase of \$25-30 million in the Baltimore City Public School's budget for 2019/20 and \$90 million for 2020/21. Baltimore Mayor Bernard C. "Jack" Young also committed to work with **BUILD** towards the \$330 million in local funds needed to leverage well over \$1 billion in state money as part of the Kirwan Commission recommendations. This once in a generation opportunity will be considered in the 2020 legislative session to right the wrongs of chronic underfunding of schools primarily serving Black and Brown children and youth across MD.



GBIO Wins \$100,000 Improvements for Run-Down Playground in Boston Neighborhood

Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) Somali leaders called on the city of Boston to respond to the run-down and dangerous conditions in a local playground. In response to **GBIO's** organizing, City Councilor Kim Janey organized a walk-through of the park with Boston's Chief of Environment, Energy, and Open Space, Christopher Cook, and negotiated with the Mayor's Office to put \$100,000 for improvements to Jeep Jones Park into the city's upcoming capital budget.

Jersey City Together Decries Schools Funding Crisis, Secures \$7 Million in Commitments

In Jersey City, 200 parent and faith leaders pressed the interim superintendent and school board president to address the schools funding crisis head on and move the school system forward towards a world class district. Demands included addressing lead in the water which garnered the mayor's support as well; increasing per pupil funding; funding for social workers, counselors, and community schools; and additional funding through a reasonable tax increase.

Justice United Won Funding to Quadruple Hiring Teachers of Color in Orange County, NC

Orange County Justice United (OCJU) won \$156,000 in line item budget support from the Orange County Board of Education for a best practices strategy to increase teacher diversity within the school district where African-American teaching staff is at a 10 year low. In Fall 2019, 250 **OCJU** urban and rural leaders from diverse backgrounds celebrated their success in pushing the school district to quadruple the hiring of teachers of color.



WHO WE ARE

Metro Industrial Areas Foundation (Metro IAF) is affiliated with the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), the first and largest network of multi-faith, broad-based citizen organizations, which has eight decades of experience winning tough battles on housing, health care, education, living wages, immigration rights, and other issues in the US and abroad. Metro IAF's 24 affiliates are in the East, Midwest, and Southeast United States (CT, DC, IL, MA, MD, NC, NJ, NY, OH, VA, WI).