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.
CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM
Won statewide Criminal Justice Reform in MA reducing use of mandatory minimums for certain drug offenses, reduction of fines and fees for probation and parole; bail reform; and regulating and reducing use of solitary confinement.

4,500 local leaders turned out for Fall 2018 accountability actions in VA, CT, MD, NC, MA, IL & OK to push Governors, Mayors, Attorneys General, Congress People and Sheriffs for criminal justice reform.

Secured commitments from VA Governor & Attorney General to make ending cash bail, raising the felony level, eliminating excessive court fees & fines and restoring driver’s licenses for 654,000 Virginians central issues in the VA 2019 statewide elections.

HOUSING & NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION
Won $2.2 billion to repair NYC Public Housing Authority (NYCHA) units where 500,000 black and brown New Yorkers live with mold, rats, no heat and other code violations. Forced NYCHA to agree to tough new standards for fixing mold and leaks in the 268,000 units of NYCHA public housing. Secured $150 million from NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio and City Council to begin construction on 15,000 senior units on vacant NYCHA land, which will free up NYCHA units for 150,000 low income New Yorkers.

Won tenant rights protections in Los Angeles and Marin Counties, CA as well as Jersey City, NJ, and secured $250 million in dedicated funds for affordable housing in DC, MA, MD, NC, NV & VA which financed 9,590 units.

Built/protected through organizing, 3,500 units of affordable housing in DC, IL, MA, MD, NC, NJ, NY & VA.

PUBLIC TRANSIT & INFRASTRUCTURE
Metro IAF in DC, MD & VA — working with the Amalgamated Transit Union local, won $500 million/year in the first ever dedicated funding for capital improvements at the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, the regional transit agency that serves 350 million riders annually. Victory will yield $15 billion for transit infrastructure upgrades and protects 13,000 living wage jobs for African American workers from privatization & destruction of frontline workers’ retirement security.

Texas IAF won $195 million for water and wastewater services in Canutillo colonia, El Paso and for flood prevention in Hidalgo County and McAllen.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR IMMIGRANTS AND THOSE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM
Leveraged support of LA County Board of Supervisors in CA to provide access to mental health services for 150,000 low income, undocumented residents.

Created Crisis Intervention training in Metro Chicago, training 1,000 law enforcement officers with 1,000 more in the pipeline. Won new Crisis Stabilization Units in Kane and Cook counties in IL to divert mentally ill people from jail to treatment.

LIVING WAGE JOBS & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
West/Southwest IAF Labor Market Intermediaries leveraged over $16 million from local, state, and federal sources, moving more than 16,000 low-income persons into jobs that pay a family wage with benefits and a career path in TX, AZ, IA, MS & LA.

An independent study lauded Project QUEST in San Antonio, TX as one of the most effective job training programs in the US and verified that “QUEST not only increased its participants’ earnings; it enabled graduates to reach the middle class.”

COPS/Metro & Austin Interfaith raised the wage floor to $15/hour for the lowest paid employees of the City of San Antonio, City of Austin, and Bexar County, TX. Austin Interfaith also protected the living wage standard for employees of all private corporations receiving City of Austin subsidies.

Working with the local teachers union, Colorado IAF secured support from members of the school board for increases in teacher pay, resulting in a 13% raise for teachers in 2019.

Turnaround Tuesday/BUILD jobs movement in Baltimore, MD secured $35/hr jobs for unemployed, underemployed and reentering citizens at Johns Hopkins Hospital and other anchor institution employers with an 82% retention rate.

Working with Amalgamated Transit Union Local 689, Washington Interfaith Network raised wages for Downtown Circular DC Streetcar Metro access transit workers from poverty to a living wage & benefits.

GUN SAFETY
Do Not Stand Idly By (DNSIB) and Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility won shareholder victories at Sturm, Ruger & Co. & American Outdoor Brands (AODC) annual meetings requiring gun companies to issue reports on the deadly impact of their products and actions taken to mitigate those impacts.

Partnered with nation’s leading law enforcement officials: Houston, TX Chief Art Acevedo and Montgomery County, MD Chief Thomas Manger to publish a Houston Chronicle op-ed urging AODC to take action to reduce gun deaths.


STRENGTHENING LOCAL UNIONS
Trained 2,000 Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) local union presidents, stop stalkers and key leaders from 65+ locals across the US on creating & implementing strategies to engage and build power among workers who operate and maintain buses, trains and transit facilities. Metro IAF worked with each local to engage every member face-to-face, defend & create middle class jobs, and organize riders to expand and improve public transportation.

Metro IAF’s efforts, supporting the visionary leadership of ATU International, contributed to the largest membership numbers in the history of the ATU.

NON-PARTISAN ELECTORAL ACCOUNTABILITY
4,740 local leaders turned out for nonpartisan accountability actions in Fall 2018 with Governors, US Congressional representatives, state legislators and local elected officials in AZ, MA, CT, ND, VA, NC, IL, OK & TX to secure public commitments around healthcare, criminal justice reform, housing, workforce development, living wages, community safety, immigration and more.

Get Out the Vote efforts in targeted precincts in AZ, TX & VA increased voter turnout at rates much higher than other districts’ increases.

IMMIGRATION
Through the ‘Reconnecting the Stranger’ Strategy, a bilingual, multi-year Spanish-language training effort, the West/Southwest IAF is building immigrant and allied leadership to create broad support for immigrant communities and their allies, focusing on formation in local congregations and the need for national immigration reform. The strategy is positioned to expand into 19 Metro areas/13 states: CA, TX, AZ, NV, WA, OR, IA, LA, CO, MS, NM, NE & OK in 2019. In 2018, IAF West/Southwest trained 623 institutional immigrant leaders from 84 parishes in 7 dioceses.

Secured pledges from law enforcement & school officials NOT to act as ICE agents in CT, DC, IL, MA, MD, NC, TX & VA.

Won commitments from Attorneys General in VA, MD, MA & DC to fight family separations of US citizen children with undocumented parents and to oppose Federal actions penalizing immigrant families using public services to which they are legally entitled.

Dallas Area Interfaith (DAI) & BUILD, Baltimore won creation of parish ID’s to be recognized by law enforcement and other agencies. DAI organized the issuance of 10,000 parish ID’s.

Pushed Northern Virginia school officials to honor Muslim & Jewish holidays.

Won $3.2 million to fund immigrant legal services in DC & MD.

HEALTH CARE
Omaha, NE Together One Community worked to get Medicaid Expansion on a state level, educated and mobilized Omaha-area voters, who provided more than a third of all votes for the measure’s passage, expanding coverage to 90,000 low-income Nebraskans.

Greater Boston Interfaith Organization won a consumer protection agreement in the merger of Beth Israel and Lahey Health Systems which included: 1) $1 billion of healthcare cost savings, 2) Improved access for low income/ Medicaid customers, and 3) $72 million for community health centers.

Communities Organized for Relational Power in Action secured another $2 million from Monterey County, CA for full-scope healthcare for undocumented residents.

CORPORATE SUBSIDY ACCOUNTABILITY
Together Louisiana secured an Executive order from Governor John Bel Edwards. Established local control over the Industrial Tax Exemption Program, the nation’s most generous corporate welfare program that currently exempts $140 billion in industrial property from local taxes. Local governments can now deny projects that do not produce new permanent jobs resulting in millions in new funding for schools and local services. Together Baton Rouge persuaded the East Baton Rouge school board and city council to deny property tax exemptions to ExxonMobil, resulting in $16 million in new funding for schools and much needed salary increases for teachers and bus drivers.

BUILD in, Baltimore, MD, won a 30% local hiring mandate for publicly subsidized development projects, creating thousands of living wage jobs for low-income Baltimoreans.