CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Restored drivers’ licenses to 627,000 Virginians with unpaid court fees and fines and won commitment to create a public defender office in Prince William County, the first county to be a majority people of color county in VA. Expanded access to Cleveland, OH’s Drug Court for people of color creating alternatives to incarceration set to open winter 2020. Won Clean Slate legislation introduction to wipe criminal records clean upon release in CT. Won increase in Medicare/Medicaid funding of newly established Crisis Stabilization Units (CSU) in IL by Governor J.B. Pritzker. CSU’s divert those in mental crisis from crowded jails and hospital emergency rooms, allowing people with mental illness to avoid incarceration and receive support by trained professionals in a therapeutic space that is safe and will be responsive to their future care needs. In addition, Chicago Mayor Lightfoot committed to end incarceration of people with mental illness with the establishment and expansion of CSU’s. READ MORE

HOUSING

Secured more than $730 million for 5,160 affordable housing apartments with projects in DC, IL, MD, NC, NJ, and NY; $300 million for over 3,350 affordable homes with projects in IL, MA & NJ; and $76 million for over 1,000 units fixed due to landlord accountability in MD, NJ & NY serving people and families with mental and/or developmental disabilities, as well as low-income seniors, individuals and families. Celebrated 20% affordable housing mandate for Under Armour’s new corporate campus development on Baltimore, MD’s waterfront, creating thousands of affordable units. Restored $424 million to New York City’s budget for affordable senior housing to be built on excess NYC Housing Authority land. Held NYC Housing Authority accountable to fix mold & leaks in thousands of apartments and won a commitment of at least $75 million for ventilation repairs. Relentless organizing over a decade won a $20.1 million renovation of one of DC’s largest abandoned apartment complexes, restoring 220 affordable housing units. Dedicated 99 new affordable housing units at Emory Beacon of Light in DC, culminating 10 years of work. Won $68 million more for Housing Initiative Fund in Montgomery County, MD, bringing the total investment to over $725 million since inception. Expanded VA Affordable Housing Fund to $11 million. Won over $1 million in investments by developer in Anne Arundel County, MD to make structural repairs, eradicate rodents and fix other housing code violations. Secured win of Fair Housing Law in Anne Arundel County, MD that removed discrimination based on forms of payment and won establishment of Human Relations Committee that has authority to subpoena landlords who violate the Fair Housing Law. Delivered win to homebuyers in Boston, MA with $3.8 million in assistance towards a combination of lower interest rates and enhanced down-payment assistance. READ MORE

HEALTHCARE

Won $140 million in savings on prescription drug costs in MA. Increased state medicaid reimbursement rate for Crisis Stabilization Units (CSU) in IL, creating a game-changing incentive for hospitals to establish CSUs for people in mental health crisis. Won $1 million for school mental health services in Howard County, MD. Expanded Medication-Assisted Treatment in IL & NY, helping incarcerated individuals in jail and on parole. READ MORE

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

Turnaround Tuesday, a jobs movement in Baltimore, MD, added 214 job placements in 2019 for a total of over 757 since its inception along with organizing nearly $3 million to develop quality jobs through 2024. Won hourly wage increase to $15/hr by Durham, NC Housing Authority for all jobs required to renovate its properties with priority in hiring its own residents. Secured a commitment from the Durham Mayor that all jobs generated by the proposed $95 million housing bond as well as $17.5 million construction of Durham’s Belt Line Project will pay $15/hr and seek to hire local returning citizens. Won commitment from Duke University to pay a living wage of $15/hr, to stop asking job applicants to disclose past criminal convictions and to make workforce development a priority. Won commitment to double size of youth employment program in Durham, NC.

EDUCATION

Gained major funding increases for schools in MD, NC, NJ & VA, including $60 million in Montgomery County, MD, $7 million in Jersey City, and $12.5 million in VA. These funding increases will allow for rebuilds of high-poverty schools, after school programming for low-income students, and an increased school counselor-to-student ratio. In Boston, Somali leaders secured $100,000 to improve playground space that was unsafe and in disrepair. In Orange County, NC, urban and rural leaders from diverse backgrounds celebrated their success in pushing the school district to quadruple the hiring of teachers of color.

IMMIGRATION

Secured $2.5 million for DC Immigrant Legal Services and a commitment of $540,000 towards free legal support for immigrants facing deportation in Montgomery County, MD. Took power away from ICE by putting an end to a program allowing deputies to hold an individual in jail so that ICE may assume physical custody of the individual in Mecklenburg County, NC. Created and issued hundreds of parish identification cards to immigrants in Baltimore that are recognized by city agencies as an alternative form of identification in specific situations, restoring trust within the community to relate to police and other government entities.

GUN SAFETY

Metro IAF’s Do Not Stand Idly By (DNSIB) campaign organized a Gun Safety Tech Expo in Milwaukee, WI that brought together key players on gun safety: developers of state-of-the-art gun safety technologies, Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett, DA John Chisholm and other officials from throughout the region, public health leaders, and investors pressing for responsible conduct in the gun industry. DNSIB recruited the team of mayors and other officials who launched the Gun Safety Consortium -- the nation’s first coalition of cities and counties dedicated to getting effective gun locks and safety products into the hands of police and civilian gun owners. Consortium co-founders include mayors John Cranley of Cincinnati, OH, Bill Peduto of Pittsburgh, PA, and Joe Ganim of Bridgeport CT; County Executive Steuart Pittman of Anne Arundel County MD; Kane County, IL Sheriff Ron Hain, and Park Ridge, IL Police Chief Frank Kaminski. DNSIB won a public commitment from Chicago, IL Mayor Lori Lightfoot to work on safer guns, gun locks & gun dealer reforms. NJ Governor Phil Murphy and Attorney General Gurbir Grewal signed onto the DNSIB campaign and made New Jersey the first state to compile and release data showing the manufacturers of guns used in crimes in the state - an important step toward holding manufacturers accountable.

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).