

# THE CENTER FOR POPULAR DEMOCRACY ANNUAL REPORT



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IN ACTION**

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DEMOCRACY  
IN ACTION**

# 2017



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# INTRODUCTION

The election of Donald Trump was a body blow to our country, our movement, and our values. Foundational commitments to opportunity, democracy, equity and fairness face deep threats, as unprecedented levels of hate and violence endanger the very communities we represent. The Trump administration's disdain for our communities is rolling back decades of progressive reform. And still, in the face of adversity, the CPD Network is rising to face the moment and standing up for our values and Black, Brown, immigrant, and working families across the country.

CPD and CPD Action grew significantly, in size, scale, and most importantly, impact in 2017. CPD now has a staff of more than 80 with offices in New York City and Washington, DC, and additional staff in Minnesota, California, Pennsylvania, Texas, North Carolina, Massachusetts, Michigan, Puerto Rico and Illinois. CPD, together with our 501c4 sister organization CPD Action, had, at the end of 2017, a combined budget of over \$31 million.

At the same time, the CPD's Network of allied organizations has also continued to grow significantly since our founding. We now have 48 partner organizations, spread across 126 cities and 32 states, Puerto Rico, and Washington, DC, representing a combined membership of more than 500,000 people. We helped build four new organizations in key states, and added ten new affiliates to the CPD Network, adding strength and people power to a growing list of impressive and dynamic partners and affiliates. Notably, 83% of CPD affiliates are led by people of color and 61% are led by women. Since the 2016 election, the CPD Network helped organize over 863 resistance events that mobilized over 500,000 participants. Our network also helped to coordinate more than 15 major civil disobedience actions on issues ranging from healthcare, to taxation, to immigrant rights, with a total of 737 people arrested.

In 2017, our communities faced incredible challenges: the economy continued to fail working families; hate and anti-immigrant vitriol surfaced as a result of the Trump campaign; low-income families faced a crisis of access to affordable, quality housing; and Black and Brown people were routinely murdered at the hands of police. All of these challenges, as ever, were painfully more acute for communities of color and for Black and Latino communities, in particular.

In these turbulent times, the CPD Network is on the forefront of the national movement to fight back, empower, and activate communities most impacted by injustice and inequality. As we look ahead to 2018, CPD continues to drive strategies to capture the upsurge in resistance energy and activity, to catalyze action to the streets, to protect prior victories, to win new progressive change, and to elevate our collective voice and vision for justice. We are doing so with a renewed commitment to building lasting institutions that engage constituencies over time on the range of issues that are priorities for them and to ensuring the safety of our people, our institutions and our communities.



# AFFILIATE & PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

- Action NC, **NC**

Action Now, **IL**

Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment, ACCE, **CA**

Arkansas Community Organization, **AR**

CASA, **PA, MD, VA**

Center on Policy Initiatives, CPI, **CA**

Center for Coalfield Justice, **PA**

Churches United for Fair Housing, **NY**

Community Labor United, **ME**

CTUL, **MN**

Delaware Alliance for Community Advancement, DACA, **DE**

FACE, **HI**

Good Jobs Now, **MI**

Hoosier Action, **IN**

Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, ICIRR, **IL**

Living United for Change in Arizona, LUCHA, **AZ**
- Make the Road, **CT**

Make the Road, **NJ**

Make the Road, **NV**

Make the Road, **NY**

Make the Road, **PA**

Manufactured Housing Action, MHAction, **National**

Maryland Communities United, **MD**

Missourians Organizing for Reform and Empowerment, MORE, **MO**

Neighborhoods Organizing for Change, NOC, **MD**

New Florida Majority, **FL**

New Georgia Majority, **GA**

New Virginia Majority, **VA**

New York Communities for Change, NYCC, **NY**

Ohio Organizing Collaborative, **OH**

One Pennsylvania, **PA**

Organize Florida, **FL**
- Organizers in the Land of Enchantment, OLE, **NM**

Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste, PCUN, **OR**

Rights & Democracy, **NH, VT**

SPACES, **DC**

Step Up Louisiana, **LA**

Sunflower Community Action, **KS**

TakeAction Minnesota, **MN**

Taller Salud, **Puerto Rico**

Texas Organizing Project, TOP, **TX**

United for a New Economy, UNE, **CO**

Vermont Workers' Center, **VT**

VOCALNY, **NY**

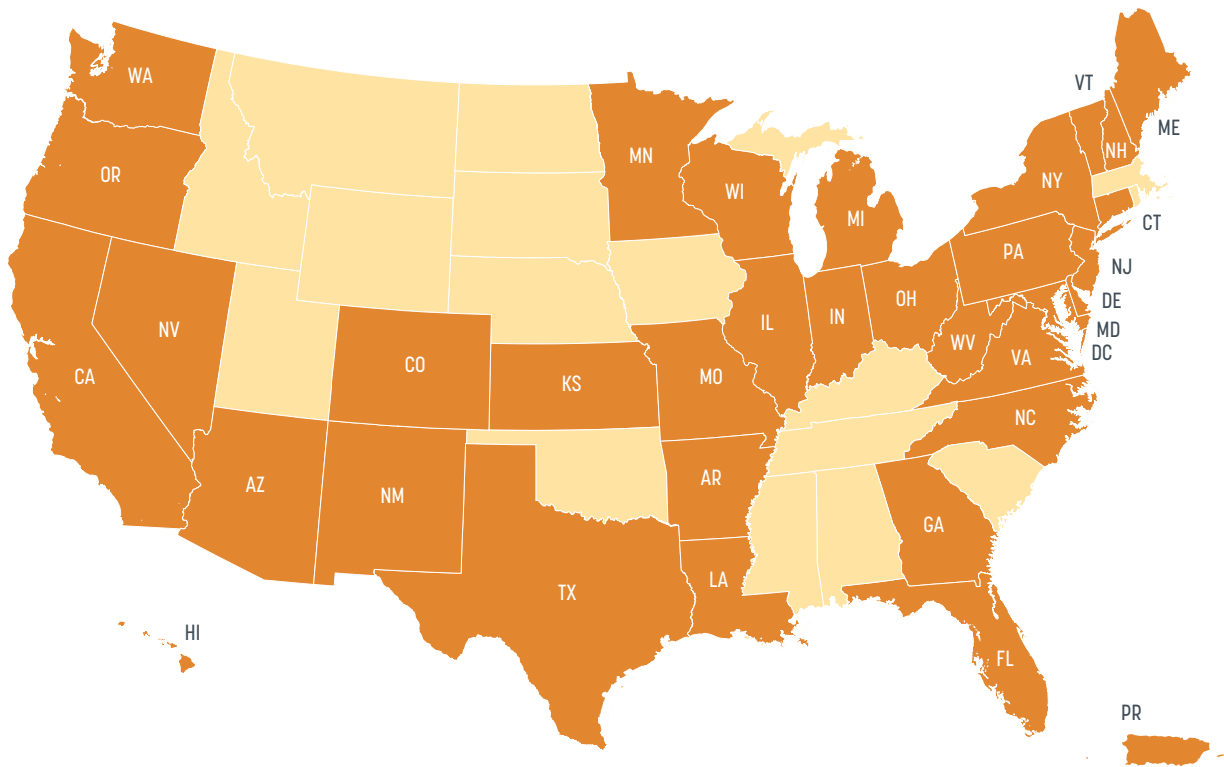
West Virginia Healthy Kids and Families Coalition, **WV**

Workers Defense Project, WDP, **TX**

Working Partnerships USA, **CA**

Working Washington, **WA**

215 People's Alliance, **PA**



# CPD BY THE NUMBERS

**48** AFFILIATES IN 32 STATES, GIVING THE CPD NETWORK A COMBINED MEMBERSHIP OF OVER 500,000

**83%** OF OUR PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS ARE LED BY PEOPLE OF COLOR

**61%** ARE LED BY WOMEN

AT THE END OF 2017 CPD AND CPDA HAD A COMBINED BUDGET OF OVER

**\$31** MILLION

OF THIS, \$13 MILLION WAS LEVERAGED AND REGRANTED TO STATE AND LOCAL AFFILIATES.

**19** POLICY AND RESEARCH REPORTS

**776** MEDIA ARTICLES MENTIONING CPD

**83** STAFF ACROSS 12 STATES



# KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2017

## WINTER

### COMMUNITY

CPD welcomed **Jennifer Epps-Addison as Network President & Co-Executive Director** in January. She brings with her a commitment to supporting and growing Black-led organizations, strengthening investments in power-building in communities of color, and deepening organizing strategies.

### ACTION

The Resistance took Philadelphia by storm when thousands of allies gathered, anchored by CPD affiliate **One Pennsylvania**, to **protest against plans to repeal the Affordable Care Act** while Trump and Republicans met at the annual Republican retreat.

### ACTION

CPD partners organized **powerful and immediate protests at airports around the country** in response to Trump’s Muslim ban. Thousands of people turned out to show their support.

### VICTORY

After years of advocacy by CPD’s **Fed Up campaign** for increased diversity and representation in the Federal Reserve, the **Atlanta Federal Reserve appointed Dr. Raphael Bostic**. Dr. Bostic is the first African American and first openly gay man selected to lead a regional Federal Reserve Bank.

### COMMUNITY

CPD launched our **Network Leadership Council**, a new representative body of key staff and member leaders from CPD partners to provide **a strong voice and input into the direction of the network** for all partners.

## SPRING

### ACTION

CPD brought over 1,000 people together in Washington D.C. to **protest against plans to take healthcare from an estimated 24 million Americans**. Twenty four demonstrators were arrested for civil disobedience after refusing to cede ground in front of the White House, representing the 24 million people who would lose their health care.

### COMMUNITY

After Attorney General Sessions repeated Trump’s threat to cut funding to sanctuary cities, **Local Progress** brought elected officials together for the first meeting of its kind in NYC to coordinate a plan to fight back, and to move **proactive, pro-immigrant policies in cities throughout the country**.

### COMMUNITY

CPD launched as a federated network to harness the power of of **48 people’s institutions spread across 32 states**.

### VICTORY

CPD’s **Fair Workweek Initiative** helped NYC become the largest city in the country to **restore a fair workweek** with predictable and stable schedules that employees have a voice in establishing, for fast food and retail workers.

### REPORT

CPD and the **Urban Youth Collaborative** released a report revealing New York City’s staggering \$746.8 million investment in the **school-to-prison pipeline**.

## SUMMER

### ACTION

CPD and our Texas affiliates, **Workers Defense Project** and the **Texas Organizing Project**, organized a massive action at the Texas State House on the last day of the legislative session, in response to **Texas Governor Abbott’s anti-immigration policies**. Activists from 10 states drove in to join the action with over 2,000 immigrants and allies turning out.

### COMMUNITY

In June, CPD welcomed new affiliates to our growing network, including the **Center for Coalfield Justice** (Pennsylvania), **215 People’s Alliance** (Philadelphia), **Churches United for Fair Housing** (New York), **Hoosier Action** (Indiana), **Step Up Louisiana**, and **Taller Salud** (Puerto Rico).

### REPORT

CPD, **Law for Black Lives**, **Black Youth Project** 100, and over 25 partners released *Freedom to Thrive*, a report that reveals the **extent to which local jurisdictions pour money into policing and incarceration**, at the expense of basic infrastructure and programs that promote true community safety.

### VICTORY

After 6 months of protest and actions, the **bill to remove health care from millions was defeated** 49-51 in July. CPD and our partners were on the front lines of each and every fight. The victory demonstrates that when we organize, we can win, even when the odds seem insurmountable.

### VICTORY

Oregon became the first state to pass a **Fair Workweek bill** with a 46-13 bipartisan vote. **Oregon Working Families Party, UFCW Local 555**, CPD-partner **Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste** (PCUN) and many others campaigned to pass this historic measure.

## FALL

### ACTION

After the shocking events in Charlottesville emerged over the summer, CPD partnered with **Color of Change, PICO, Working Families Party, United We Dream**, and many other national allies to support the **#Cville2DC march**, a 10-day, 118-mile march from Charlottesville to DC to confront White Supremacy.

### ACTION

CPD launched the **Hurricane Maria Fund** to meet the needs of Puerto Rico’s most vulnerable communities in preparation for category 5 Hurricane Maria. In just one month, the fund **raised \$3 million to support immediate relief, recovery, and equitable rebuilding in Puerto Rico** for low-income communities of color hit hardest by the storm. The Maria Fund continues to raise money for Puerto Rico.

### ACTION

The CPD Network took action in nine states to support the **passing of a clean DREAM Act**. The actions included mass marches, phone banking, door-to-door canvassing in the neighborhoods of key Representatives, and information sessions for affected DACA recipients.

### COMMUNITY

On October 30, over 230 supporters joined CPD for a celebration of organizing, resistance, and the progressive movement for **CPD’s first NYC gala**.





# FIGHTING FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

CPD’s Racial Justice team works in collaboration and solidarity with our partners and allies across the country for an end to discriminatory and oppressive policies that marginalize Black people and other communities of color. Our society is currently facing a number of challenges that are deeply rooted in white supremacy and historical discriminatory policies, and communities must meet this moment with bold visions and multifaceted strategies.

The Racial Justice team uses campaigns, research, and advocacy to assist our partners in creating a society in which structural oppression is eradicated, and in which all people can control their social, economic, and political destinies. CPD aims to strengthen the power of communities to ensure investments in safety, education, health, and housing reflect local priorities and control.

Our theory of change focuses on three values: building relationships across geographies and enacting meaningful change at the local and state level to improve the everyday lives of Black and brown communities; laying the infrastructure and narrative groundwork for radical and transformational change; and growing the capacity of local organizations to pursue a transformational vision of racial justice that includes divestment from violent state structures and unbridled privatization, the abolition of hyper-criminalization and mass incarceration, and reinvestment in the health, safety and wellbeing of Black and brown communities.

Our work the past two years culminated with the release of a report entitled *Freedom to Thrive: Reimagining Safety & Security in Our Communities*, envisioned and co-authored with movement partners Law for Black Lives and BYP100. The nearly-100 page report examined the general budgets of 12 jurisdictions across the US, providing an in-depth analysis of their spending on policing/incarceration as compared to community safety priorities such as housing, mental health services, youth programming, and infrastructure. The report’s July 2017 release came with a significant rollout plan, including traditional news media; digital outreach using social media, email, and a webinar; and targeted distribution to thought leaders, research institutions, and philanthropists.

The report demonstrates that local and state governments continue to spend massive amounts of money—including significant portions of their local budgets—on criminalization, policing, and mass incarceration, while critically underinvesting in basic infrastructure and the social safety net. The choice to resource punitive systems over stabilizing and nourishing ones does not make communities safer. Instead, study after study shows that a living wage, access to holistic health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more effective in reducing crime than police or prisons.

Within this context, CPD worked closely with our affiliates and movement partners to accomplish the following: Shift the debate and advance our campaigns through training and tool development, policy and research efforts, and communications support; build infrastructure and support for sustainable, geographically-targeted organizing efforts to win on these budget and resourcing issues; and support elected officials and candidates who advance the ‘Freedom to Thrive’ agenda/platform.

Our ultimate goal is to win policy and budgetary gains that result in a deep and critical injection of money into the long-term needs of communities. In 2018, CPD’s racial justice team will develop police reform policy in partnership with CPD’s Local Progress Network, provide research and policy support for ongoing campaigns against jail expansions, support Black-led organizing within the CPD Network, helping launch a new CPD affiliate BLOC in Milwaukee, and support racial equity initiatives in the CPD organization and network, among many other priorities.

In addition to the development of our signature campaign “Freedom to Thrive,” the racial justice team has also been working to support CPD affiliates and other partners leading on local criminal justice reform work, including drafting legislation and budgetary analysis for police reform and jail closure campaigns.

One of the most exciting capacities we’ve built within the racial justice team is support for rapid response moments. For example, our racial justice team helped to coordinate the Charlottesville to DC (Cville2DC) March Against White Supremacy in response to white supremacist violence in Charlottesville. We also organized a racial justice summit in Baltimore in coordination with Local Progress. Finally, our team has been focused on supporting a cohort of black executive directors and senior leadership across the CPD network. In 2017, the black leadership cohort met in person four times, and coordinated a host of network activities.

“ The choice to resource punitive systems over stabilizing and nourishing ones does not make communities safer. ”





# EQUITY & OPPORTUNITY



IN  
NEW YORK  
CITY

BLACK AND  
LATINX  
STUDENTS

ARE 67%  
OF ALL  
STUDENTS

ACCOUNT FOR  
92.4% OF ALL  
STUDENTS  
ARRESTED

S



# PROMOTING JUSTICE FOR IMMIGRANTS

Immigrant communities have been under bitter and sustained attack, creating an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty in many immigrant communities. Nevertheless, 2017 was an incredible year, marked by innovation, impact and bold and creative resistance. The CPD Network has been on the frontlines of the resistance—helping turn fear into action, winning concrete victories that protect and empower immigrant communities, and countering hatred and intimidation with a powerful vision of justice and dignity for all.

When President Trump’s “Muslim ban” was announced, CPD supported Make the Road New York’s leadership in organizing a protest at JFK airport that helped spark a national moment of resistance. CPD affiliates Make the Road Pennsylvania, Make the Road New Jersey, CASA, and many others held similar protest at their local airports. Our affiliates the Texas Organizing Project (TOP) and the Workers Defense Project (WDP) helped lead the resistance against Texas’ SB4 law (commonly known as the “show me your papers” law), coupling grassroots organizing with a legal challenge to SB4 that successfully mitigated some of the law’s most harmful aspects. Since Trump’s shameful decision to end the Deferred Action of Childhood Arrivals (DACA) in September, and to terminate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for several countries, the CPD Network has helped lead the fight to protect TPS and pass a clean DREAM Act, winning to a temporary court injunction blocking Trump’s decision to end DACA.

CPD also helped lead the fight in cities and counties throughout the country to protect immigrant communities. Together with a coalition of local organizations, CPD helped preserve and expand the New York Immigrant Family Unity Project (NYIFUP), the country’s first publicly funded universal representation program for immigrants in detention, now in its fourth year. CPD worked closely with elected officials and local advocates to reproduce the NYIFUP model around the country, leading to the creation of the LA Justice Fund, which will provide \$10 million toward deportation defense in the area, as well as new access-to-counsel programs for immigrants facing deportation in Baltimore and Prince George’s County, MD, Boston, MA, and Hennepin County in Minneapolis, MN.

CPD published a sanctuary cities toolkit which informed efforts to limit cooptation of local police and government to implement the federal government’s mass deportation agenda. CPD and our affiliates across the country won significant policy victories which include a statewide sanctuary law in Illinois and a statewide confidentiality executive order in New York; new or expanded sanctuary city policies in New York City, Annapolis and Baltimore

County, MD, York, PA, and Denver, CO; photo ID programs in Bridgeport, CT and the Reading, PA School District; language access protections in Bridgeport, CT; and school board and city council resolutions supporting sanctuary, DACA, and TPS in a number of other jurisdictions.

In 2017, CPD and our affiliate Make the Road New York launched the Corporate Backers of Hate (CBOH) campaign, identifying a number of major US companies that stand to profit from Trump’s hateful agenda including JPMorgan Chase and Wells Fargo. On May Day, more than a dozen CPD affiliates took action, calling on corporations with deep financial ties to private prisons and immigration detention centers to distance themselves from Trump’s anti-immigrant agenda and the mass criminalization of people of color. Thanks to advocacy work by Make the Road New York, New York City announced in June that its pension funds would be divested from private prison and immigrant detention companies. Philadelphia followed suit in October.

In 2018, CPD will continue to defend justice and dignity for all immigrant communities. At the federal level, we will continue fighting for the Dream Act. At the local and state level, we will launch new campaigns and continue supporting ongoing efforts for universal representation, for ever-stronger sanctuary policies, and for criminal justice reforms that keep families together and take people out of the deportation pipeline. And we will continue working with our affiliates and local policy makers to ensure that all immigrant communities have the freedom to thrive.



# WINNING EDUCATION JUSTICE

CPD’s Education Justice program works to support our affiliates, partners, and allies across the country to build grassroots power, win progressive campaigns, and build a strong and sustainable movement for education and racial justice. We aim to achieve a vibrant, community-centered, academically challenging, and culturally-relevant public education system based on democratic principles, transparency, and public accountability.

CPD strives to ensure that our schools provide safe, inclusive, and supportive teaching and learning environments where all children and youth have the opportunity to grow and the freedom to thrive.

In 2017, our Education Justice team focused on advancing three key strategies aimed at promoting the community schools model as a strategy for transforming our public schools, building resistance to education privatization by presenting evidence of its detrimental effects, and dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline by supporting youth-led campaigns pushing for divestment from police in schools and an end to discriminatory school discipline policies that criminalize Black and Brown youth.

This year we continued to expand our network’s reach and impact in advancing the community schools strategy. Our Education Justice team provided direct support to local affiliates, partners and allies in driving campaigns in almost 20 places across the country that won over 50 community schools and more than \$6 million to fund them. New community schools opened in Arizona, California, Colorado, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Minnesota, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, New Mexico, New Jersey, New York, Tennessee, and Texas, among many others.

The Education Justice team released a number of strategic research reports to be used as powerful advocacy tools. These reports received widespread media attention that helped create progressive change in public discourse

around key education justice topics. For instance, reports documented over \$233 million of public funds lost due to fraud, waste, and mismanagement in the charter school industry; provided a widely cited case study on ‘Community Schools as Problem Solving Machines;’ and exposed, in a joint report with the Urban Youth Collaborative (UYC), the \$746 million cost of the school-to-prison pipeline in NYC.

As one of the leading institutional partners of the Alliance to Reclaim Our Schools (AROS), CPD continues to drive regional and national campaigns (to expand community schools and curb the expansion of charters and vouchers) and community-labor coalitions. In 2017, together with our other key national AROS partners, CDP helped launch a series of coordinated local campaigns for racial justice, community school and progressive revenue generation – in about 20 cities across the country.

The team will build on this work in a number of ways through 2018. We will expand our support for youth-organizing and campaign-building aimed at dismantling the school-to-prison-and-deportation pipelines in five new cities. Our work to curb the privatization of education will include increased attention towards building and amplifying grassroots and community-led resistance to corporate-backed state takeovers, school closures, and the expansion of charter schools and voucher programs in at least five new cities. We will also continue to support our network affiliates and allies in winning increased funding for community schools, including through progressive revenue campaigns.



# ORGANIZING FOR HOUSING JUSTICE



We aim to achieve a vibrant, community-centered, academically challenging, and culturally-relevant public education system based on democratic principles, transparency, and public accountability.

Under the Trump Administration, housing justice advocates face drastic and often-unpredictable threats to investments in safe, affordable housing and community development. CPD has worked to push back against these short-term threats while maintaining our commitment to a forward-looking, long-term strategy.

In July, CPD took the lead in building a national housing coalition that brought nearly 1,000 low-income tenants to Washington, DC to protest proposed cuts to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). We worked in partnership with affiliates including Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE), NYCC, MH Action, VocalNY, and Rights and Democracy to organize a town hall with members of Congress, a march to HUD offices, and a visit to the home of a private equity lobbyist. CPD followed this day of action with a planning meeting that included our affiliates, four affiliates of People's Action, Right to the City affiliate City Life/Vida Urbana, and representatives from four additional community organizations. At the meeting, member leaders shared their stories, and participants worked to develop a shared analysis and plans for joint action.

In late September, we met with fourteen CPD affiliates to further develop a plan of action and understanding of the current housing crisis in the specific context of our affiliates' communities. We developed a research plan focused on the role of private equity, along with a lack of public investment, in creating the housing shortage. We have already started sharing the raw data from this project with members of

affiliate organizations in order to facilitate base building and popular education activities.

CPD is also responding to the housing challenges presented by hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. In mid-October, CPD affiliates organized meetings with staff for Senators Bill Nelson and Ted Cruz. We asked the senators to work with us to ensure Congress will create financing for the specific purpose of preventing land speculation and disaster profiteering. We proposed that federal dollars be used to create a loan pool to allow local governments or mission-driven developers to buy and rehabilitate multi-family rental housing affordable for low income families, and single family housing that could be targeted to lower income renters or home buyers. That same day we brought a delegation of several hundred people to HUD's headquarters, where we sought a meeting with Deputy Secretary Pam Patenaude about this same proposal.

In the coming year, we will continue to respond to threats to safe, affordable housing, whether in the form of program cuts or giveaways to speculators and corporate landlords. We will deepen our relationships and coordinate national strategies with affiliates and allied organizations, and continue to develop our research and campaign work on the effects of private equity in housing markets. This work will allow us to lay the foundation for a national movement to support state (and ultimately federal) policies that protect tenants, increase and preserve affordable housing stock, and prohibit predatory practices across the country.

# PROMOTING CLIMATE JUSTICE



Rooted in the low-income communities of color that are most heavily impacted by the climate crisis, CPD's climate justice initiative is focused on building the power needed to stop fossil fuel use and expand clean and renewable energy, while ensuring that these changes are equitable for the communities that are most impacted.

Over the last year, CPD and affiliates organized and campaigned at every level—locally, statewide, federally, and targeting corporations—to advance the national movement to address climate change. At the local level, CPD affiliate FIRE worked with local allies to resist the expansion of fracking and to push back against the the development of the Sabal Trail Pipeline, a devastating new fossil fuel project proposed for Central Florida. In New York State, CPD affiliates Make the Road New York and New York Communities for Change, together with allies in the New York Renews coalition, continued to push for the New York State Climate and Community Protection Act, strong legislation to equitably achieve 100% clean and renewable energy in the state. Federally, CPD affiliates in Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Missouri organized local communities throughout the late summer to resist the Trump administration's devastating efforts to cut the Environmental Protection Agency.

CPD's environmental justice work also aims to keep corporations accountable to working families. CPD affiliate the Center for Coalfield Justice battled coal mining giant

Consol Energy and worked for a just transition off of coal power for rural coal mining communities in Southwestern Pennsylvania. In Southeastern Virginia, CPD affiliate New Virginia Majority organized communities devastated by asthma and other health conditions caused by coal ash, which is transported on trains through their communities. Finally, like communities of color and low-income communities in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, and in the New York metro area after Hurricane Sandy, CPD affiliates in Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico engaged in massive relief and organizing efforts to equitably rebuild in the aftermath of climate disaster Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria.

Looking forward to 2018, CPD and our affiliates will continue to battle fossil fuel infrastructure projects, advance bold legislative solutions, and engage in large-scale civic engagement work on climate change throughout the country. As social justice leaders organizing on the frontlines of the climate crisis, CPD affiliates will continue to expand their efforts to win an equitable and sustainable future for all.



# FIGHTING FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE, RESILIENCY & RECOVERY

Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria hit within just one month of each other in 2017, and with them came an urgency to reshape and reimagine what is needed for us to survive increasingly-deadly and frequent climate disasters.

Hurricane Harvey hit the Texas coast on August 25 causing \$127 billion in damage. Two weeks later, Hurricane Irma hit the Florida Keys causing \$64.2 billion in damage, and is the strongest storm on record in the open Atlantic region. Hurricane Maria made landfall in Puerto Rico on September 20 as the worst traumatic disaster in the island’s modern history, causing over 1,000 estimated deaths and over \$91.6 billion in damage, with many still living without electricity or reliable sources of fresh drinking water.

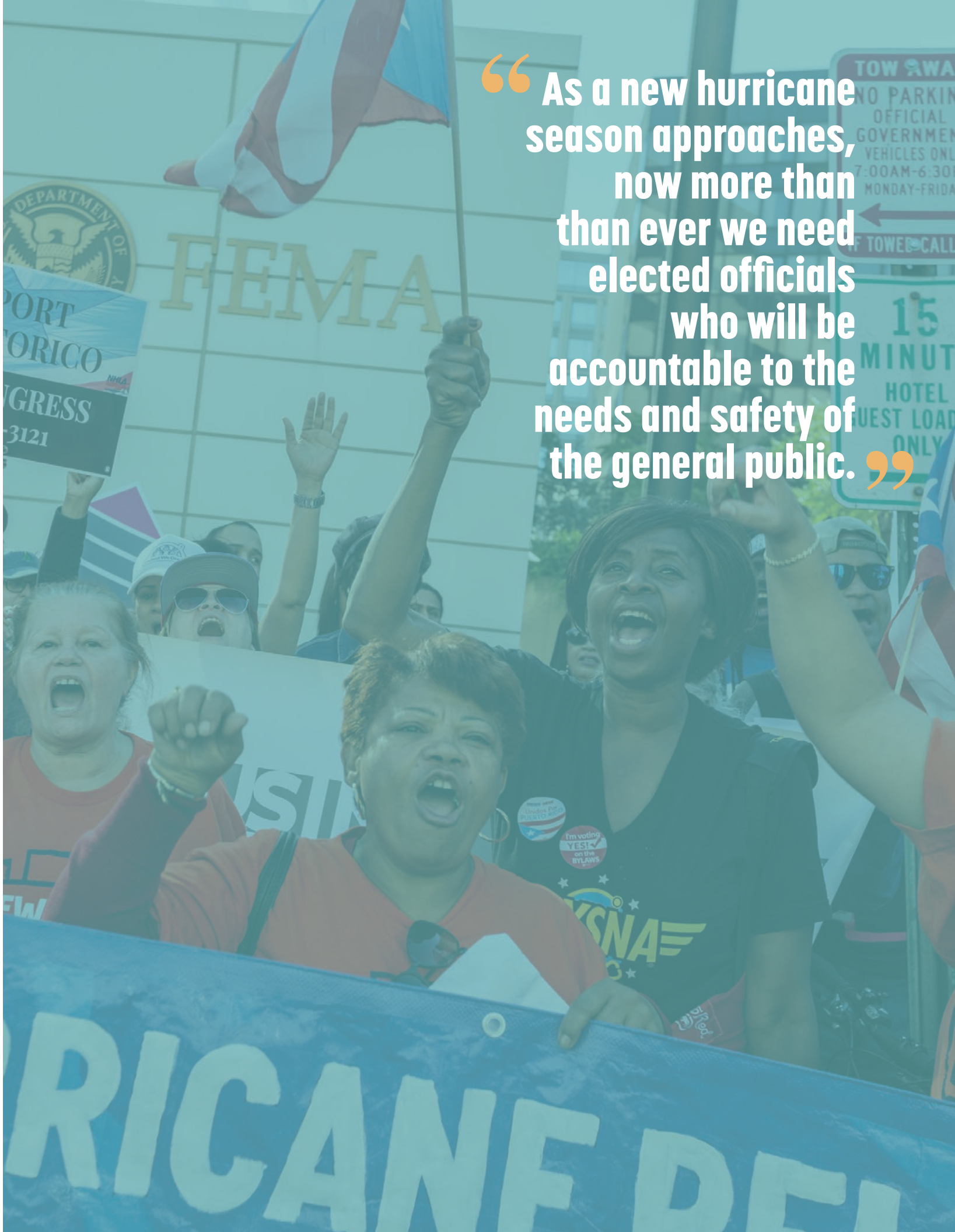
Taking the lead from our partners on the ground, TOP, WDP, Organize Florida, MH Action, New Florida Majority, and Taller Salud, CPD worked to amplify the needs and demands of communities affected by these disasters. This work has included holding the federal government, as well as corporations seeking to profit from the human devastation, accountable to provide for an equitable and just recovery. In October, the CPD Network rallied with over 800 survivors and supporters in Washington, DC, demanding adequate aid and relief efforts to all impacted areas. Every month since October, CPD has coordinated partners to mobilize public support and pressure the federal government to provide the necessary aid for a full and equitable recovery.

Learning from our experiences with partners in Texas and Florida, CPD launched the Hurricane Maria Community Recovery Fund in partnership with local Puerto Rican organizations shortly before the hurricane made landfall in September. The Maria Fund has raised over \$5 million for frontline efforts to fulfill immediate relief needs, and to organize for an equitable Puerto Rico over the long term. This included helping organizations like Taller Salud in providing relief to over 10,000 people within the two months following the hurricane, as well as supporting self-organized community kitchens set up in the days immediately after the hurricane to help bring food and water to communities cut off from the rest of the island due to damaged roads. Just days after Hurricane Maria, CPD organizers arrived with tarps, solar powered lights, and many other relief supplies thanks to the Maria Fund.

On the US mainland, CPD is helping to organize Puerto Rican people who have been forced to leave the island both before and after Hurricane Maria. In November, CPD joined Power 4 Puerto Rico, a coalition of organizations, leaders, and advocates from across the nation working together to address the devastation caused by Hurricane Maria. This organizing effort has led to several significant actions starting with the Unity March in November, the largest concentration of Puerto Ricans in Washington, DC, in decades. At the same time, we have held actions against key corporations responsible for the Puerto Rican debt including Blackstone and TPG Capital. In December, CPD collaborated with Hedge Clippers and Vamos PR, as well as local partners, to mobilize in ten different cities across the country against TPG Capital’s predatory foreclosures on homes in the days after Hurricane Maria. This action resulted in TPG Capital agreeing to a moratorium on foreclosures in Puerto Rico.

With many families still struggling to recover from the emotional and financial trauma such disasters cause, the Trump administration’s failure to respond is unprecedented. As a new hurricane season approaches, now more than than ever we need elected officials who will be accountable to the needs and safety of the general public. And we must ensure that corporations—many of which are waiting to capitalize on the next deadly climate disaster—are held accountable. We also need to reinforce local organizing to win the necessary investments in public infrastructure, quality affordable housing, and clean energy transition efforts to end dependence on fossil fuels. We will work with partners through 2018 to create and implement a plan that will ensure resilience in low-income communities of color and eliminate further contributions to the causes of climate change.

“As a new hurricane season approaches, now more than than ever we need elected officials who will be accountable to the needs and safety of the general public.”





# A RESILIENT & JUST ECONOMY

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# RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE, AND PASSING PAID SICK DAYS & PAID FAMILY LEAVE

In 2017, we continued to enforce our victories raising job standards for working people, while building worker power and organizing for the next round of economic justice wins in increasingly tumultuous times. Millions of workers are able to live more justly thanks to the strides we made this year.

This year, Minneapolis became the first Midwestern municipality to adopt a \$15 minimum wage. The nearly-unanimous council vote was a result of a multi-year organizing campaign led by CPD partners Neighborhoods Organizing for Change (NOC) and CTUL and allies \$15Now and local labor unions. The increase will benefit 23% of the workforce, or approximately 71,000 workers, which will go a long way toward improving the quality of life for workers and their families.

Since this victory, the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce took the city of Minneapolis to court, arguing that the local minimum wage ordinance conflicts with the state law. (Business opposition tried unsuccessfully to defeat a local paid sick leave ordinance using the same legal strategy.) Our ally National Employment Law Project (NELP) has been supporting this case in coordination with city legal counsel, which resulted in the state court denying the injunction. This means that thousands of workers will receive a raise on January 1, 2018. While the case will still likely go to trial, this early win is promising.



“As national attention shifts focus to upcoming elections, we have a unique opportunity to bring public attention to the economic issues that are the most important to women and people of color.”

Elevating the economic impacts of minimum wage increases, and the voices of workers most affected, has been especially challenging in the current political atmosphere. We are using this time to develop a more comprehensive national worker storybank, including video testimonials, as well as working to support local partners in their efforts to promote the positive impacts of minimum wage increases on their local economies and workforce.

In spite of these challenges, CPD was able to help our partners win an increase in Minneapolis and gain traction toward securing wins in Vermont and New Jersey. As national attention shifts focus to upcoming elections, we have a unique opportunity to bring public attention to the economic issues that are the most important to women and people of color. The work we have done to date—crafting strategy, building relationships on the ground, developing community education programs, etc.—positions us to take full advantage of this opportunity and to drive real progress on these issues in the immediate future.

In June, Washington State became the fifth state in the nation to pass a paid family leave. Passing with bipartisan support, the policy is one of the most inclusive in the country, providing three months of leave, with benefits set at 90% of the weekly income of low-wage workers. Setting the benefit level high, and providing for a significant period of leave, makes it much more likely that the low-wage workforce will actually benefit from the policy. CPD affiliate Working Washington played a key role in the campaign’s diverse coalition: engaging actively in the rule-making process, and building a structure for worker-led, grassroots enforcement for the law’s official implementation in 2020.

In 2018 CPD will continue building with our affiliates to drive more than 14 active minimum wage, paid family leave, and earned sick time campaigns. We will also engage in four campaigns to prevent state interference with local authority in order to set higher labor standards. And finally, we will launch a campaign in three states to combat corporate-driven policies that keep workers from pursuing violations in court, pushing them instead in to private arbitration shielded from public scrutiny or accountability.



# WINNING A FAIR WORKWEEK

An overwhelming number of working Americans are employed in hourly jobs in the country’s growing service economy. Jobs in retail, foodservice, and hospitality industries are becoming increasingly flexible.

For workers this means part time hours and fluctuating incomes that make it difficult to cover even basic expenses. Families are strained by unpredictable work schedules that make it harder to arrange for childcare, attend school, secure a second job, or qualify for promotions to full-time employment. These trends are causing widespread financial insecurity among working families, which is why working people are calling for stable and predictable work hours, more opportunities to work full-time, healthier schedules with adequate rest, and a greater voice in when and how much they work.

Amidst a mounting public debate around how to create good jobs and grow our economy, CPD’s Fair Workweek Initiative is working with grassroots campaigns to address the economic crisis facing working people by building public support to compel corporations and policymakers to provide a family-sustaining workweek. In just a few years, we have won a fair workweek for over one million people in the service economy. In 2017, despite tremendous challenges caused by this difficult political moment, state and city policymakers took bold action.

Oregon made history as the first state to win comprehensive fair workweek protections for service workers. Workers can now count on two-weeks’ notice of their work schedule by 2020, compensation for employer-initiated work schedule changes, at least ten hours of rest between shifts, and the right to have input into their work schedules. Working Families Oregon, UFCW 555, and PCUN, along with a broader coalition, ran a robust campaign that secured this path-breaking win.

Also this year, New York City passed comprehensive fair workweek protections for fast food workers and on-call scheduling protections for retail workers, guaranteeing predictable, balanced workweeks for tens of thousands of workers. New York City’s fast food workers also won the Fast Food Empowerment Act, which allows workers to contribute to a non-profit organization through their paycheck. Fast Food Justice, a new organization that will be funded through this measure, will help fast food workers exercise their new

“In just a few years, we have won a fair workweek for over one million people in the service economy.”



workplace rights, and will give them a collective voice on a range of social justice issues. The NYC Fair Workweek campaign was driven by Fast Food Forward, SEIU 32BJ, RWDSU, and the Retail Action Project.

Oregon and New York City join Seattle, San Francisco, Emeryville, San Jose, and Washington, DC, in ensuring that working families are protected by fair workweek policies that promote a pathway to greater economic security. The Fair Workweek Initiative is cooperating with coalitions across the country to keep policy momentum up in 2018 with campaigns in Chicago and Philadelphia, as well as in New York State, Connecticut, Illinois, and Washington. These efforts are driven by our partners on the ground, including One PA, Make the Road CT, Working Families, Working Washington, UFCW 881, Warehouse Workers for Justice, and UFCW 21.

As the movement for a fair workweek grows, working people—especially workers in retail—are being faced with a number of new challenges as the industry navigates mounting pressures from Amazon and Wall Street investors. Policymakers are stepping up to ensure that their cities and states offer jobs with dignity, and to re-write the rules to give working people a say. Now more than ever, people working in the service economy need a greater voice and stronger workplace protections. By building strong grassroots leadership, we are poised to ensure that the future of work enables all families to thrive.

# HOLDING WALL STREET ACCOUNTABLE

CPD’s commitment to building strong, democratic, and accountable people’s institutions rooted in communities, along with our commitment to the people whose vision and energy drive our work forward, requires taking on powerful corporate actors.

Our Wall Street accountability work challenges the role of financial and corporate actors in policing and incarcerating people of color, pushing down wages, and maintaining difficult and dangerous working conditions. We have engaged at the local and federal levels to execute targeted corporate campaigns to safeguard both our communities and our people’s organizations, and to protect the progress we have won in recent years and decades.

CPD leads multiple campaigns that aim to expose the destructive role of finance capital on our communities and our politics. For example, our Connecticut and New York partners, along with CPD’s Puerto Rico-based staff, continued this work in 2017 through the Hedge Clippers campaign, which helped expose the destructive influence of hedge funds on Puerto Rico’s economy. Taller Salud, a CPD affiliate, played a vital role in the organized response to Hurricane Maria. In addition to providing relief for people’s immediate needs, Taller Salud put forward an analysis linking the disaster’s devastating effects to the actions of hedge funds, which had systematically stripped the island of resources and imposed austerity measures that left the people of Puerto Rico vulnerable.

CPD’s Fed Up campaign supported the fight against the 2017 CHOICE Act, and against Wall Street nominees to the Federal Reserve leadership and the Treasury. TOP in Texas led the only protest against the CHOICE Act, the legislative vehicle to gut Dodd-Frank, at the offices of the bill’s sponsor, Jeb Hensarling. Hensarling and his colleagues undoubtedly hoped to sneak in the deregulation bill amid the political noise at the beginning of the year, but Fed Up and TOP took a stand, and the bill was tabled indefinitely shortly thereafter.

CPD will ramp up its Wall Street accountability efforts through 2018. We plan to continue our work connecting Wall Street and financial institutions, such as hedge funds and private equity firms, to the lives of immigrants in detention, low-wage workers, and retail workers struggling with erratic schedules. We will engage in fights at the state level against the carried interest loophole, forcing hedge funds to pay their fair share of taxes and contribute to key public services.





# BUILDING A FULL EMPLOYMENT ECONOMY

The Federal Reserve is the most powerful economic institution in the country. Although our communities continue to suffer through a weak economic recovery and increasing economic inequality, corporate and financial interests are demanding that the Fed raise interest rates to put the brakes on growth or rising wages.

But for the first time in recent memory, community organizations, unions, and consumer advocates are mobilizing around the Federal Reserve for a national economic policy that prioritizes full employment and rising wages. For the past four years, CPD’s Fed Up campaign has advocated for low interest rates and a full-employment economy, more jobs and rising wages for all communities, a transparent and representative Federal Reserve not controlled by corporate interests, and an empowered and knowledgeable community ready to fight for their economic freedom.

Although 2017 was a remarkably difficult year for progressive movements, Fed Up managed to achieve a number of historic wins. Fed Up helped reverse over 100 years of history by advocating for—and winning—the appointment of Dr. Raphael Bostic at the Atlanta Federal Reserve, making Bostic the first Black Fed President since its founding in 1913. The campaign used multiple strategies to achieve this victory, starting with a report highlighting that, historically, the Fed is overwhelming white, male, and dominated by corporations and financial institutions. Fed Up campaign members occupied hearings, lobbied their Senators and Representatives to press Chair Janet Yellen on issues of racial diversity during her testimony, and organized a letter, signed by 116 members of Congress and 11 Senators, demanding a diverse and representative Fed. The appointment of Raphael Bostic, who comes out of Obama’s HUD and is an expert in housing discrimination against racial minorities and LGBTQ people, was unprecedented, and would not have happened without the research, political advocacy, and protesting of the Fed Up campaign.

Fed Up also blocked the appointment of some very dangerous contenders to the Federal Reserve’s Board of Governors. Our organizers and members prevented the nominations of frontrunners like Kevin Warsh, a billionaire Wall Street banker who promoted policies that would have been disastrous for those recovering from the Great Recession; John Taylor, originator of the “Taylor Rule” that would have eliminated 2.5 million jobs; and Gary Cohn,

the former COO of Goldman Sachs who sold garbage securities and contributed to the global economic crash. At every stage, Fed Up used sophisticated communications and field strategies to remove these candidates from serious consideration.

When the Fed raises interest rates and slows down job and wage growth, their primary justification is a 2% inflation target first instituted in 2012. The Fed Up campaign helped generate a vital public conversation around this inflation target, which took place among Fed colleagues, prominent economists, administration officials, workers, Black and Brown communities, in the Wall Street Journal, on Twitter, and on local TV. Under mounting pressure, Fed Chair Janet Yellen could no longer ignore the issue which determines the livelihood of millions of low-income workers.

When Yellen was asked about the 2% inflation target by a reporter—who directly referenced the conversation that Fed Up had started—she stated, “This is one of our most critical decisions and one we’re attentive to evidence and outside thinking. It’s one that we will be reconsidering at some future time.” This moment served to jumpstart a broader critical conversation around the 2% inflation target, as Yellen’s statement gave implicit permission for other Fed officials, economists, and the media, to take the idea seriously.

In 2018 the Fed Up campaign will continue to fight for full employment and a more transparent and representative Federal Reserve. President Trump still has the opportunity to pack the Federal Reserve with several more appointments. And the New York Federal Reserve will soon be choosing a new President, easily the most powerful job related to the economy in the United States that Trump doesn’t control. Fed Up will defend the Fed’s mandate to ensure full employment from hawks in the Fed who are willing to sacrifice economic progress, and will continue fighting to ensure humane jobs and livable wages for low-income communities and communities of color in a true full employment economy.

# ENSURING ACCESS TO CHILDCARE

CPD has recognized a national crisis in childcare and early education—in funding, quality, and access—and has sought to tackle this crisis by focusing on deep organizing in Pennsylvania, Minnesota, and Oakland/Alameda County. In 2017, each of these campaigns has translated its innovative organization of parents, providers, and directors into remarkable success under challenging conditions.

In Pennsylvania, we won new state-level funding for early childhood education. In Minnesota, we successfully defended against widespread attacks on existing programs. And in Oakland, CA, we laid the foundation for future funding wins through a ballot initiative slated for June of 2018. Each of these campaigns is well positioned for ongoing success as we enter the new year.

In Pennsylvania, CPD partnered with One PA, a Pittsburgh-based organization which has engaged hundreds of parents and educators in its base-building work to win increased access to high quality, affordable, and inclusive early education and care. In 2017, One PA focused on the state budget fight, mobilizing hundreds of members to participate in demonstrations at the state capitol each month during the spring and summer of 2017. Its efforts have paid off. One PA’s budget campaign resulted in multiple early education funding wins for 2018, including a \$25 million expansion of pre-kindergarten programs, a \$20 million increase for childcare services, a \$5 million increase for evidence-based home visiting, a \$5 million budget for Head Start, and stable funding for Early Intervention. In Pittsburgh, One PA led the fight to end the suspension and expulsion of all public school children from pre-kindergarten to third grade. Through its ongoing organizing work, One PA is gearing up to mobilize early education voters for the crucial statewide elections in November 2018.

In Minnesota, CPD partnered with ISAIAH, a faith-based coalition that has built a Kids Count On Us network of 50 childcare centers across the state. ISAIAH’s statewide organizing committee brought together 125 childcare campaign leaders in a public meeting in January 2018, held a press conference and day of action with over 100 leaders in March, held a press action including ten childcare providers and three state representatives in May, and organized an educational forum for childcare directors, parents, and teachers with leaders from 15 childcare centers in July. These vibrant organizing efforts enabled Kids Count On Us to fight back when the legislature

instated a \$400 million cut to the state’s health and human services budget. They successfully pressured the legislature to reinvest funding back into the childcare budget and to create and update regulations that were required for Minnesota to continue to receive federal childcare funding. Kids Count On Us is poised to dramatically grow its members in the run-up to the 2018 gubernatorial election.

In Oakland, CA, CPD partnered with ACCE Action. In a progressive but often-contentious political setting, ACCE Action focused its work in 2017 on organizing parents and childcare providers and on building a coalition of community organizations, unions, and elected leaders, to work toward a June 2018 ballot initiative that will support universal pre-kindergarten, expanded subsidies for low-income parents, and provide wage support for early educators through a .5-cent sales tax increase.

In Pennsylvania and Minnesota, the early childhood education movement was at the forefront of multi-issue anti-austerity state budget campaigns, lending its trained advocates to a variety of economic justice campaigns. In all three of our target locations, CPD has successfully integrated the early childhood education and care movement with other economic justice and resistance work. On a national level, we continued to build and maintain coalitions with national allies such as the Center for Community Change, SEIU, American Federation of Teachers (AFT), and Make It Work, drafting federal legislation and organizing a national Early Education Summit in June 2018. All three of our major campaigns are well positioned to maintain and expand our early childhood education work in 2018.





# A ROBUST & RESPONSIVE DEMOCRACY

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# ADVANCING VOTING RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

Working with our affiliates and allies across the country, CPD is fighting for a strong, inclusive, and representative democracy.

To realize the promise of a truly representative and inclusive democracy, our electoral system must provide every American the opportunity to meaningfully participate, as well as elected leadership that is responsive to the needs of voters and their communities. However, more than a decade of attacks on voting rights and democratic participation—from strict voter ID laws, to gerrymandering, to the White House Pence-Kobach voter suppression commission—have undermined these core principles of representative democracy, and have eroded the political participation of ordinary citizens, including the Rising American Electorate.

In this moment of political turmoil and growing threats to American democracy, we are committed to driving proactive democracy reforms where we can, and to protecting and defending democratic infrastructure where we must. We are working to eliminate the structural barriers that disproportionately disenfranchise and suppress the voices and votes of communities of color, low-income communities, and youth, and to driving a proactive democracy agenda to increase access to the ballot, expand the electorate, support people-powered campaigns, and strengthen the voice of the Rising American Electorate in the electoral process.

In 2017, CPD partnered with state affiliates, state coalitions, and national allies to support proactive democracy campaigns and defend the right to vote in Arizona, Illinois, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Washington State, Vermont, Virginia, Texas and Washington, DC.

CPD continued to build national momentum and state capacity to advance transformative reforms like Automatic Voter Registration (AVR). Working with state partners and national allies, we won AVR in Illinois, supported statewide AVR efforts in Nevada and New Mexico, and are assisting implementation efforts of AVR and voter registration modernization in New Mexico, Vermont, Pennsylvania, and Washington, DC.

CPD is also expanding the right to vote. We are supporting our state affiliates Organize Florida and New Florida

Majority and their work with the Say Yes to Second Chances campaign to gather over one million signatures to qualify the 2018 constitutional amendment. The amendment would restore the right to vote for 1.6 million Floridians who have served a felony sentence, but currently are barred from voting. In light of the ongoing attack on voting rights in many state capitols, we are focused on expanding the impact of these campaigns through innovative voter registration reforms that can be widely implemented at the city and county level.

Protecting the right to vote is just the beginning, so we are fighting to ensure that everyday Americans and their communities—not special interests and corporations—have a voice in our elections. Working with state partners and national allies like Every Voice, Demos, and Common Cause, we are developing strategies and tactics to support innovative public finance reform efforts that increase the political representation of women and communities of color in the electoral process.

The beginning of 2017 also saw CPD’s first involvement in money in politics work at the federal level, fighting back against Trump’s corporate cabinet. This work included engaging state affiliates and supporters in the fight to block the nomination of Judge Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court, based on his concerning record on money in politics, as well as his links to voter suppression. While our efforts did not stop the confirmation of Gorsuch or other nominees we opposed, we successfully framed the narrative around money in politics and deepened our engagement in efforts to advance game-changing federal reform that will help to rebuild and strengthen our democracy.

As we fight to protect our democracy, 2018 also brings new opportunities to increase access to power among communities of color, women, and young people by advancing the right to vote, empowering the voice of voters in elections and—with a new round of redistricting right around the corner—fighting to ensure fair districts that truly represent the will of the people.

“We are committed to driving proactive democracy reforms where we can, and to protecting and defending democratic infrastructure where we must.”





# BROADENING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

CPD supports our partners in integrating voter participation into their year-round organizing and membership work.

Integrated Civic Engagement is a practice of building permanent voter engagement programs in one’s constituency, with the dual purpose of increasing civic participation during the year, and increasing informed voter turnout during elections. Much of our partners’ work in 2017 involved agenda-setting for the upcoming election cycle, expanding the electorate, and turning out the vote.

Voter registration plays a major role in many of our partners’ civic engagement strategies. Since voter registration efforts and funding are generally concentrated in even years, 2017 saw fewer registrations than last year. However, many of our partner organizations ran sophisticated voter registration programs, and continued to include voter registration in their routine work with community members.

This year the CPD Network registered over 100,000 voters, and conducted sustained follow-up organizing and engagement with more than 500,000 voters that they had registered over the previous two years. The Network also ran Get Out The Vote (GOTV) programs targeting over one million voters in Virginia, Georgia, New York, New Jersey, New Mexico, and a dozen other states. Our state partners generally focus on low-income communities of color when registering voters, and run robust follow-up and engagement programs with the voters they register, a strategy proven to substantially increase voter turnout. In Pennsylvania, our partners found that the people they registered in 2016 were 20% more likely than the average resident to vote in that election.

Our partners also turned voters out with local, state, and federal issue campaigns. These campaigns forced issues like the Affordable Care Act (ACA), DACA, and criminalization into the spotlight, making them key election issues upon which candidates’ statements and records were made.

The impact of Integrated Voter Engagement is powerfully illustrated by our work in Virginia. New Virginia Majority Education Fund successfully won a campaign in 2016 to re-enfranchise 200,000 formerly-incarcerated individuals who had lost their right to vote. In 2017, they registered at least 25,000 of these same people and turned them out to vote, using messaging focused on the promise of a full and representative

“CPD affiliates knocked on nearly 1 million doors in 2017 with a message to vote on issues and vote for democracy.”



democracy, voting rights, and resisting voter suppression. Experts suggest that the increased November turnout in Virginia was due to this new block of motivated voters.

Our partners around the country conducted massive non-partisan, issue-driven GOTV campaigns in municipal and state races in 2017. Whether the focus was on the re-enfranchised voters mentioned above; on “New American Majority” voters newly-registered in Atlanta via the New Georgia Project; or on Latinx voters in New Jersey with Make the Road NJ, our affiliates used the issue of importance for their base to generate momentum and drive turn out to vote on election day. We estimate that CPD affiliates knocked on nearly one million doors in 2017 with a message to vote on the issues and vote for democracy.

While our issue campaigns are not generally seen as civic engagement work, we can be sure that many voters in this past election were especially motivated by fightback campaigns against the repeal of the Affordable Care Act, as well as DACA, Obama’s executive program to protect the Dreamers. Our partners held dozens of actions in local town halls, at detention centers, ICE offices and in DC, highlighting the roles of the Federal Administration and the conservative legislature in attacking our communities. The widespread media coverage and attention these actions generated helped to hold Congress accountable and has framed the terms of debate and the issue agenda for the 2018 elections.

# STATE POWER PROJECT

The State Power Project (SPP) provides the basis for dramatically strengthening organizing capacity in nine key states, including Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, Florida, Michigan, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Maryland, and Virginia.

SPP’s goal is to build the grassroots organizational strength of ten state affiliates by engaging in community-driven campaigns and recruiting the public to join as members, and engage in individual and collective action. SPP will achieve this by creating an integrated program, which combines community organizing, canvassing, and digital initiatives, to build affiliate activism and participation around a racial and economic justice agenda.

SPP took enormous strides in designing and launching the outreach canvass, organizing, digital, data, messaging, and issue agenda components of the program in 2017. The national outreach canvass team, along with the Executive Directors of our affiliates, began implementing a program to engage in public outreach and recruitment of new activists at a scale and with a systematic discipline never before experienced by those organizations. These outreach programs will be developed in Colorado, Nevada, Arizona, Florida, Pennsylvania and Michigan. Building on lessons from CPD’s five plus years of starting outreach and membership canvasses, the team developed a national infrastructure to track and analyze performance, streamline finance and operational systems, and track the increased participation and activism experienced by the affiliate organizations from people contacted by the outreach canvasses.

To support the leadership of our organizers who are key to this program’s success, CPD designed a training program for the entire CPD Network in Las Vegas. CPD trained over 60 organizers and supervisors from nearly 20 organizations on the fundamentals of base-building work. CPD coordinated this training to coincide with the launch of Make the Road NV. The 60 plus organizers engaged in a massive door-knocking effort to introduce residents of Las Vegas to this new CPD affiliate.

To organize at scale, SPP led the creation and launch of a CRM system in partnership with Membership Drive. This integrated toolset will enable affiliates and the CPD Network to significantly improve its organizing through data, reporting, multi-channel outreach, automated assessment, and tools that support in-person organizing.



Reflecting the fundamental principle of co-creation and network-based power building, the executive directors from the SPP cohort affiliates came together for a two-day retreat, during which they dove into the major programmatic components. Our affiliates continued to come together to shape the program through a discussion on the digital program along with SPP consultant M+R, on the message frame that will link the outreach canvass and digital scripts led by the Public Affairs and Strategic Communications team, and ongoing working groups regarding the organizing assessment scale and the building of the Database of Record.

In 2018, we will see the complete program come to life, beginning with the launch of the first canvass, along with the digital program, in Philadelphia, PA in January, and the kick off of replicated programs in Orlando, Miami, Tampa, Detroit, Las Vegas, and Phoenix following the national canvass bootcamp in February. As the outreach canvasses ramp up, the digital program will scale up – widening the funnel of potential participants and activists for affiliates. The organizing program will complete its hiring and those teams will strengthen the capacity of affiliates to engage in campaigns by leaps and bounds. Overall, the program will increase affiliates’ ability to drive comprehensive issue agendas across states by understanding and responding to the issues that motivate community members to become active.



# FIELD INNOVATION

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# FIGHT BACK!

With the election of Donald Trump, our communities are facing incredible challenges at the federal level.

There are new, urgent demands that we and our partners must respond to—to keep our communities and our people’s organizations safe, and to fight to protect the progress we have won in recent years. At the same time, there are clear signs of a growing energy for change. Harnessing the energy of immigrant communities, communities of color, and working class communities requires a game-changing shift. We recognized the need for a new program that would enable us to defend against the ongoing attacks on our communities. From the start of 2017, we began mass mobilizations that targeted the Trump administration’s agenda to take away our healthcare and tear apart our families.

Just a few days after Trump’s election, the CPD Network mobilized over 10,000 people to Philadelphia, PA, to protest plans by Republican members of Congress to repeal the ACA. The protest coincided with the first meeting between President Trump and House and Senate Republicans at the annual Republican congressional retreat.

Following this action, CPD worked with our affiliates around the country to engage in an unprecedented number of actions on the ground. We began the year with massive organizing conference calls alongside partners like MoveOn and Working Families Party, which had 20,000–60,000 participants every week for the first 100 days of the Trump administration. We simultaneously organized dozens of practical trainings in direct action tactics across the country, which focused on bird dogging elected officials. This led to over 100,000 people engaging in direct action during the first Congressional recess of the year.

Growing frustrated with elected officials who simply took to hiding from constituents, our Birddog Nation (over 2,500 strong) and our affiliates traveled en mass to Washington, DC and engaged in 12 non-violent civil disobedience direct actions in direct response to plans to repeal the ACA. In July, our grassroots supporters were in DC, and were the last non-staff members to talk to Senator John McCain before his historic vote against ACA repeal. In September, we were responsible for alerting other organizations and the public to the fast-moving Cassidy-Graham bill, and organized to disrupt the bill hearing alongside disability rights groups such as ADAPT. The bill was stopped dead in its tracks following that action.



Despite Trump’s repeated campaign promises to take away the ACA on his first day in office, it took conservatives 11 months to remove one key provision of the ACA. To this day, the ACA remains in place and tens of millions of people around the country still have access to healthcare.

As the fight to save healthcare morphed into the proposal for tax reform, CPD and allies quickly mobilized for eight non-violent direct actions in Washington, DC and over 30 actions in the District of Columbia. Through our organizing against regressive tax reform policies, we were able to lift up the story of one of our own staff members, Ady Barkan, a young father and financial policy expert who is dying from ALS. Although we lost the vote on tax reform, Ady’s story, which has been heard by millions of people across the country, has helped to show Americans that the bill was a giveaway to corporations. We won the narrative battle, which is crucial as we head toward the 2018 elections.

In 2018, CPD’s Fight Back Initiative will continue developing plans for more massive mobilizations, including bringing hundreds of people to remote West Virginia where Trump and Congressional Republicans will meet to plan attacks on Medicaid and other social safety-net programs. We are also organizing actions with affiliates across the country to protest Trump’s proposed Infrastructure plan, which, like tax reform, is a massive giveaway to corporations that will harm everyday people in our country. Keeping our families together is another important goal in 2018. We are bringing our immigrant communities together with allies who fought for healthcare to engage in nonviolent direct actions. After these actions, CPD will engage in deep-organizing of these communities to vote out elected officials who have been bought off by the NRA, blame immigrants for the problems that their tax cuts have caused, and voted to take away our healthcare. In 2018, we are committed to sending the message that if you rip apart families, or if you take away our housing, healthcare, or food, we will take away your job.

# SUSTAINABILITY



CPD began developing the sustainability initiative field program in 2016. The goal of this program is to work closely with affiliate organizations to develop innovative canvass programs to help build their dues-paying memberships.

In addition to their immediate goal of effective and scalable base-building to support issue-based campaign work, these canvasses will also help build a membership base that will ensure these organizations’ long-term financial independence.

In 2017 the sustainability initiative, with substantial support and assistance from Membership Drive, launched their first wave of membership canvass programs with 5 affiliate organizations—Working Washington, VOCAL-NY, Make the Road PA, ACCE, and Take Action Minnesota. The first year of the program saw significant growth, showing great potential for the years ahead. Together, CPD’s field team and the five affiliate canvass programs signed up over 5,000 recurring monthly dues-paying members, generating over \$90,000 a month in recurring income. The program’s performance in its first year has put our sustainability initiative and the first five participating affiliate organizations on the track toward continued growth and revenue generation in the next two to three years.

The sustainability initiative spent the final months of 2017 preparing for the growth of the first five affiliate canvass programs, as well as the expansion of the initiative with more affiliate organizations in 2018. To do this, CPD hired two new sustainability initiative team members who will work with affiliates to build innovative systems to more effectively handle dues payment processing, and to track the finances and performance of each field program.

With increased staff capacity and a year of experience with results in hand, CPD’s sustainability initiative is planning a massive expansion in 2018. We expect that our network of affiliates participating in our canvass building program will expand to 15 organizations throughout the course of the year. This bold expansion has been made possible by the incredible leadership of the initiative and, most importantly, by the hard work of the amazing canvassers and field managers who laid the foundation for this program in 2017.



# BUILDING THE CAPACITY AND POWER OF OUR NETWORK



In the current political moment, powerful people’s organizations like those in the CPD Network have a dramatically increased role as defenders of decades of progressive gains, homes for resistance, and spaces in which neighbors can imagine a different future for our country.

It is critical in this moment that these organizations work to improve their organizing practice and become peak performers. CPD’s organizing team provides technical and capacity building support to our partners to help them achieve this goal. In 2017, this work was focused in the following three areas:

**Network Convenings and Trainings:**  
The CPD Network is most alive and visible to itself when our partners come together in meetings, actions, or training spaces. These collective experiences increase strategic alignment so that partners experience their engagement with the network as an animating support as they carry out vital work in their own geographies. In 2017, our network Leadership Council, consisting of 3–5-person delegations from each affiliate, held meetings in which they adopted a shared platform, defined how they would like to see our network grow, and took to the streets together to defend our healthcare in DC.

Additionally, CPD Network executive directors met to strategize about our issue campaign work and fightback work, and to develop strategies for connecting across issues and geographies. Finally, our network-wide trainings, including a training for new organizers and supervisors and a cohort of executive directors and deputy directors, touched over 90 staff members at all levels of leadership at our partner organizations, and a cohort of over 30 operations staff members met several times to share best practices and participate in training that supports our organizations in being well-managed, well-governed, and fiscally and legally compliant.

**Strategic Interventions with Partners:**  
Throughout 2017, CPD supported over two dozen of our partners with targeted support including customized trainings for staff and board members; executive coaching for organizational leaders; assistance in strategic planning; fundraising assistance and campaign development; support in designing staff development programs and member leadership development models; and support in recruiting new staff members.

**Support for Emerging Organizing:**  
In 2017 we supported the creation and launch of a number of new groups in Indiana (Hoosier Action), Louisiana (Step Up Louisiana), Detroit, MI (Good Jobs Now), and Alaska (Alaska Grassroots Alliance), among others. We have also supported the launch and ongoing development of the new Make the Road family of organizations, extending the Make the Road New York model to Pennsylvania, Connecticut, New Jersey, and, most recently, Nevada.

Over the coming year, we will continue to grow the CPD Network’s capacity and integration in ways that will deeply enhance our partners’ capacity to overcome the immediate challenges facing us in 2018 and 2020, as well as the long-term viability and growth of our network and our movement.

# CONNECTING ELECTED OFFICIALS FOR ‘LOCAL PROGRESS’

Local Progress is the national network for progressive elected officials. In cities, counties, and towns across the country, Local Progress members are spearheading the most innovative policy strategies for shared prosperity, sustainable and livable communities, equal justice under the law, and good government that serves the public interest.

The members and staff of Local Progress are building genuine “inside/outside” strategies for local governance, developing the next generation of our nations’ progressive leaders, and collaborating across our cities with impacts at the state and national level.

This year, Local Progress grew to include more than 650 members in 41 states. We also took large organizational steps forward, growing our staff to ten. These additions include a new campaigns department that will work to coordinate trans-local campaign activity, and new staff to focus on strategic geographies, including Florida and Texas.

In response to increasing threats to immigrants and communities of color from the federal government, Local Progress members launched two new bodies of work at the beginning of the year, which focus on immigrant protections and racial justice. In March, our immigrant protections working group partnered with the New York City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito to host “Seeking Sanctuary,” which brought together local elected officials from forty cities with the goal of strengthening immigrant protection policies. Since that convening, over a dozen attending members have passed substantive immigrant protections that range from laws ending police cooperation with ICE, to funding legal defense for immigrants. Over 150 members from 94 cities have taken additional action to support immigrant communities. In 2017, our racial justice working group held quarterly calls to educate members on police reform. These calls have resulted in concrete policy changes in cities as diverse as Albany, NY, New York City, and Seattle, WA. In December, we fully launched our racial justice work by organizing a convergence of fifty Local Progress members from across the country for an in-depth conversation about policing and racial justice that will help shape our strategy for the coming year.



Finally, we held our sixth annual national convening in Austin, TX, where we brought over 130 progressive elected officials to the Texas State Capitol to protest SB4, commonly known as the “show me your papers” law. Working together with TOP and WDP, Local Progress members were able to coordinate nearly all of Texas’s largest cities to join a coordinated lawsuit against the state, which was successful in limiting the impact of this harmful bill.

In 2018, we will continue our work to bring members together in acts of resistance, and to support them in winning “local progress” for more just and equitable cities. In addition to continuing our focus on immigrant and racial justice, we will be working in 2018 to defend our nation’s public infrastructure, to advocate for just and sustainable projects that serve the public good, and to continue our long-time focus on winning policies that increase infrastructure standards and support worker organizing. We will also work to scale our leadership development and training work, continuing our commitment to growing the next generation of progressive leaders from the ground up.



# TELLING OUR STORIES





# PUBLIC AFFAIRS & STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

Telling the story of CPD’s values and breakthroughs took on new dimensions in 2017. The public affairs and strategic communications team shapes the public face of CPD by developing multifaceted media strategies to broadcast our values, advance our policy campaigns, and define our place in national conversations.

The team, which includes specialists in media relations, digital strategy, and creative production, helps to build CPD’s media and online footprint by creatively deploying a variety of platforms including traditional media, social media, paid media, events, and art.

In 2017, we successfully leveraged those platforms to secure unprecedented coverage of CPD, as well as digital engagement with the communities we represent and new communities we sought to reach. We received more than 750 mentions in national and local media, including marquee stories in the New York Times and the Washington Post, and interviews on MSNBC and CNN. We raised the level of our opinion coverage, securing op-eds in leading news sources including USA Today and CNBC, and instituting regular columns for CPD in The Nation and Huffington Post. Our work helped drive the national conversation, raising support for issues on the leading edge of progressive policy through original placements that included a Vox explainer on the Fair Workweek Initiative and an ad on Fox News calling for the reappointment of Janet Yellen.

The dimensions and innovations of our digital work also grew in 2017. Our number of followers on social media nearly doubled and we set new records in digital fundraising. Furthermore, through increased use of strategies like online petitions, click-to-call, and Facebook Live, we’ve dramatically increased our velocity of digital engagement, creating a true community around our shared goals and values.

Our digital team designed and executed digital campaigns that led to over 32.2 million impressions involving posts, video and paid ads. This level of support led to over 727.6k digital engagements of people liking, commenting and sharing with others to take action on our campaign petitions and rapid response tools. Our most widely shared and popular content came out of our efforts to stop the

#GOPTaxScam. Our livestream, tweets, posts and videos reached over 7.1 million accounts and led to a larger awareness with the American public on the devastating impact the bill would have in all of our communities.

We also grew our team, adding a Public Affairs and Strategic Communications Director to oversee and fuse our media and digital work, while ushering in new bodies of work in graphic design, web design, video production, and campaign communications.

In 2018, this team will help promote a unified message around CPD’s work and its place in the progressive universe. We will continue to lift up CPD’s extraordinary fightback efforts and local policy campaigns, while incorporating work into a cohesive story of the CPD brand. We will explore additional platforms to amplify our work, including wider forays into the arts, cultural strategies, storytelling, and other non-traditional communications. Finally, we will continue to expand our capacities by adding more team members with multi-disciplinary backgrounds who can work across a variety of platforms to continue pushing the boundaries of what CPD can achieve through strategic communication.



# POLICY & STRATEGIC RESEARCH

CPD provides a range of strategic research, policy, and legal expertise to advance both CPD-driven national campaigns and local affiliate-driven campaigns in communities across the country. In 2017, CPD’s Strategic Research Team supported dozens of campaigns across all of CPD’s issue areas, which included the release of 20 public-facing reports.

This research highlighted the experiences of our communities, identified policy solutions to reverse historic inequities, and facilitated the organizing and action needed to win real change. Our high-impact reports included in-depth analyses of municipal spending that prioritizes criminalization over community needs; the school-to-prison pipeline; and the waste, fraud and abuse in charter schools. Through this work, we helped advance our racial justice and education campaigns by highlighting the critical need to invest in systems that strengthen our communities and divest from the systems that don’t.

We also produced vital research and analysis for CPD’s FightBack campaign to defend our communities against policies proposed by President Trump and the Republican-led Congress. This research included a report exposing the five firms that stand to benefit from the President’s Border Wall proposal; a series of in-depth profiles of corporate backers of the Trump agenda; and several reports and tools designed to support immigrant communities under attack, including a toolkit to help advance local sanctuary policies.

The research we produced for our Fair Workweek Initiative supported the passage of local policies in several cities and the state of Oregon, and the release of findings from a CPD-designed survey of over 1,000 retail workers nationwide. We also provided strategically-important research for our voting rights, wage theft, community schools, climate justice, forced arbitration, and Fed Up campaigns. This research raised the visibility and credibility of our campaigns as it was featured in national outlets including *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *USA Today*, *Time*, *CBS News*, *Politico*, *Bloomberg*, *The Atlantic*, and *US News & World Reports*.

CPD’s staff attorneys play a similarly critical role in our work by undertaking technical legal research and analysis to identify opportunities for policy change, and by supporting

campaigns at every stage—drafting proposals, crafting advocacy materials that make the case, and remaining engaged as policies are implemented on the ground. For example, our legal team continued to craft cutting-edge policies to address fluctuating and insecure work hours, innovations in voting rights, pro-immigrant policies, and proposals to curb the school-to-prison pipeline.

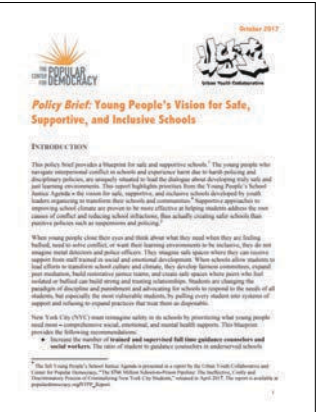
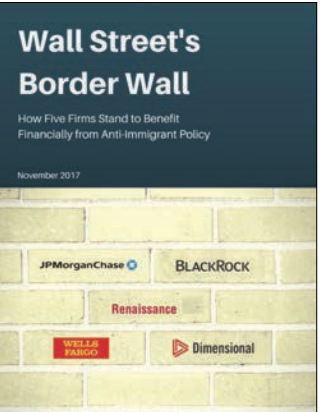
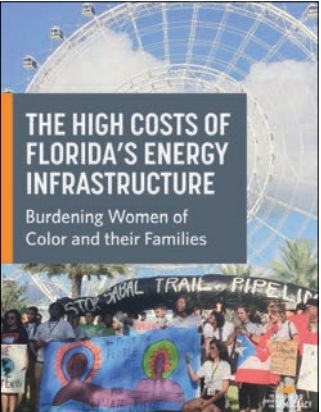
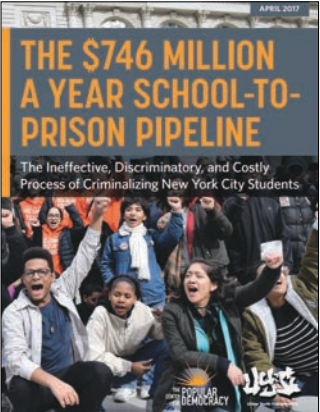
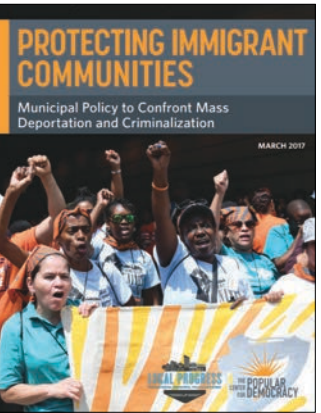
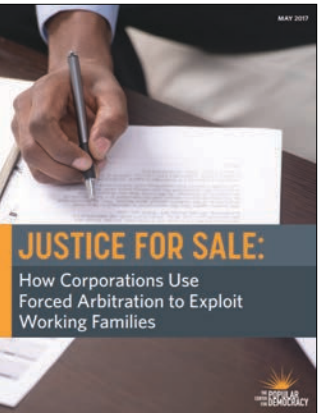
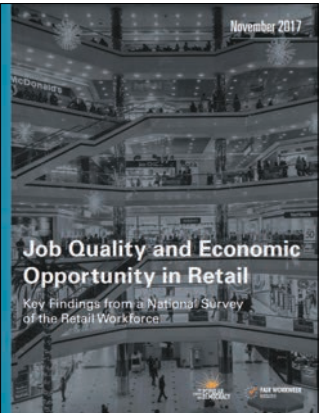
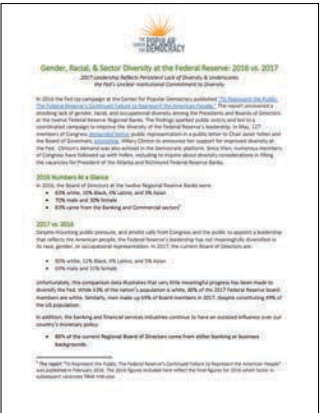
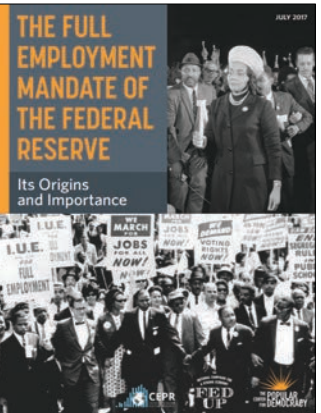
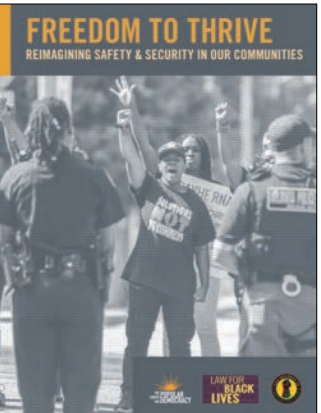
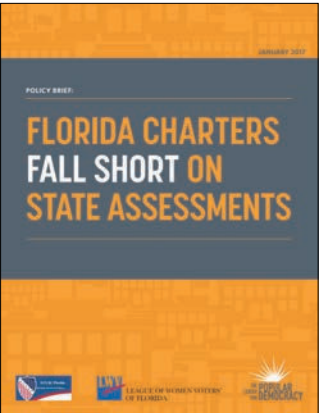
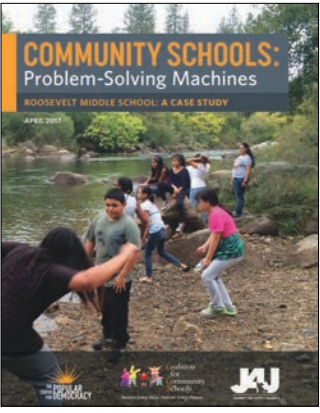
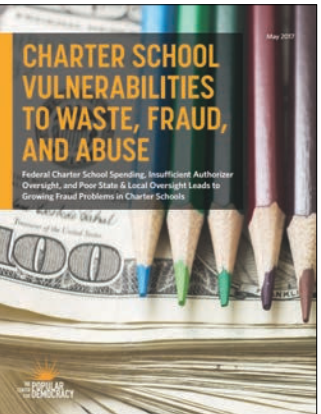
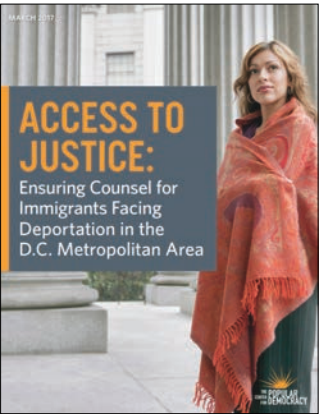
As CPD expands the scope and range of our campaign work, we will continue to provide expert policy and research support to our national and affiliate-led campaigns. Key priorities will be to facilitate opportunities to build research and policy capacity among affiliates, and to identify opportunities to support the intersection of CPD campaign work across issue areas and across our federated network.





2017 CPD PUBLICATIONS

All of our publications can be viewed at [populardemocracy.org/news/publications](http://populardemocracy.org/news/publications)



INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTH

As CPD continued to scale up significantly over 2017, we focused on increasing institutional strength on several interrelated fronts to support our ambitious mission.

In 2017, we created a Chief Operating Officer position to oversee a newly-integrated infrastructure and systems team that brings together our Human Resources, Legal Compliance, Finance, and Technology staff. We also conducted an audit of our systems to identify and address any areas that could compromise our institutional security. We continued to evolve our technology systems to support a growing team of staff, based across the country. These systems also help ensure top-level security through measures such as two-step authentication, best practices on document storage, and other security measures.

As we continue to leverage money to the field, we are also continuing to develop customized financial systems that provide us with a real-time picture of our financial position, and which enable us to provide high-level support to our field partners, some of whom we incubate as they grow.

In 2017, we also focused on engaging and supporting our growing staff. At the start of the year, we completed negotiation of our first collective bargaining agreement with our staff union, and invested time in its implementation over the year. We also hired Kim Freeman Brown, our Senior Advisor for Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Leadership. In addition to supporting Black-led affiliates and our racial justice programmatic work, Kim anchors core elements of our staff support work including our permanent Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) work, and support for supervisors. In 2017, Kim worked with an external consultant to anchor an organizational assessment process, which engaged staff from all levels of the organization in assessing areas for growth and generating recommendations.

While there is still much work to do, CPD made a number of solid advancements around DEI issues, creating a solid foundation on which to build. Listed below are just some of our 2017 accomplishments:

- CPD became 50 percent led by people of color with the hire of Network President and Co-Executive Director Jennifer Epps-Addison. In this role, Jennifer leads a rapidly-expanding portfolio including the official launch of the CPD network; building a robust racial justice team and portfolio of work that included the release of the groundbreaking Freedom to Thrive report; and oversight of the newly-formed Field Innovation Program. Additionally, the majority of CPD's Senior Management Team are women, half are people of color and a quarter self-identify as LGBTQ.
- CPD made significant investments in building internal DEI infrastructure. In the midst of rapid organizational growth—within both the national organization and the CPD Network—CPD has invested in building internal infrastructure to ensure that DEI issues are consistently assessed and addressed. Much of 2017 was spent assessing organizational practices and systems through a DEI lens, and identifying priority issues from the perspective of staff and Network leaders of color. CPD also established a DEI committee, which consists of a representative body of staff charged with helping the organization advance its DEI work.
- As CPD has significantly grown its national staff over the past year, concerted efforts to recruit staff of color has resulted in its staff being over 50 percent people of color. Further, the number of black staff has more than doubled.

Looking ahead to 2018, we will continue to build out our infrastructure staff to support our growing programmatic work, support supervisors, and further develop our financial and compliance systems. We will also finalize implementation of the recommendations from our 2017 organizational assessment, and will work with our affiliates to develop and run a year-long strategic planning process that articulates a “North Star” towards which we orient all aspects of our work.







# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

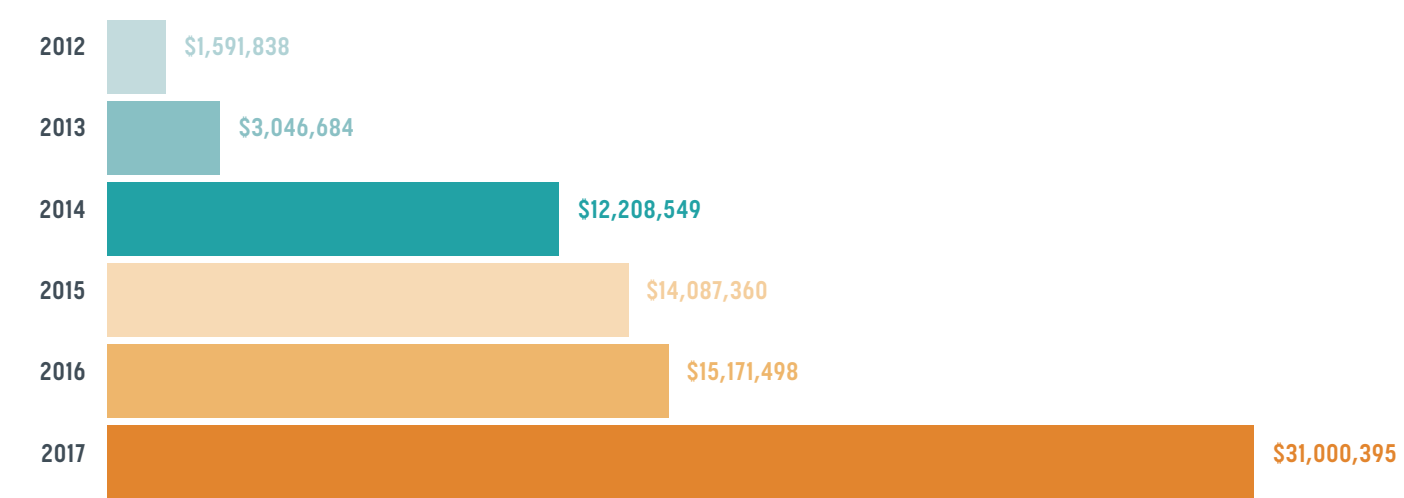
Year Ended December 31, 2017

REVENUE AND SUPPORT	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	TOTAL
Grants and contributions	\$ —	\$ 29,019,578	\$ 29,019,578
Contract income	1,057,926	—	1,057,926
Rental Income	48,565		48,565
Fundraising events	196,608		196,608
Fiscal sponsorship income	113,921	—	113,921
In-kind contributions	57,706	—	57,706
Other income	506,091	—	506,091
Net assets released from restrictions:			
Satisfaction of purpose restrictions	14,346,644	(14,346,644)	—
Expiration of time restrictions	4,099,660	(4,099,660)	—
Total revenue and support	20,427,121	10,573,274	31,000,395

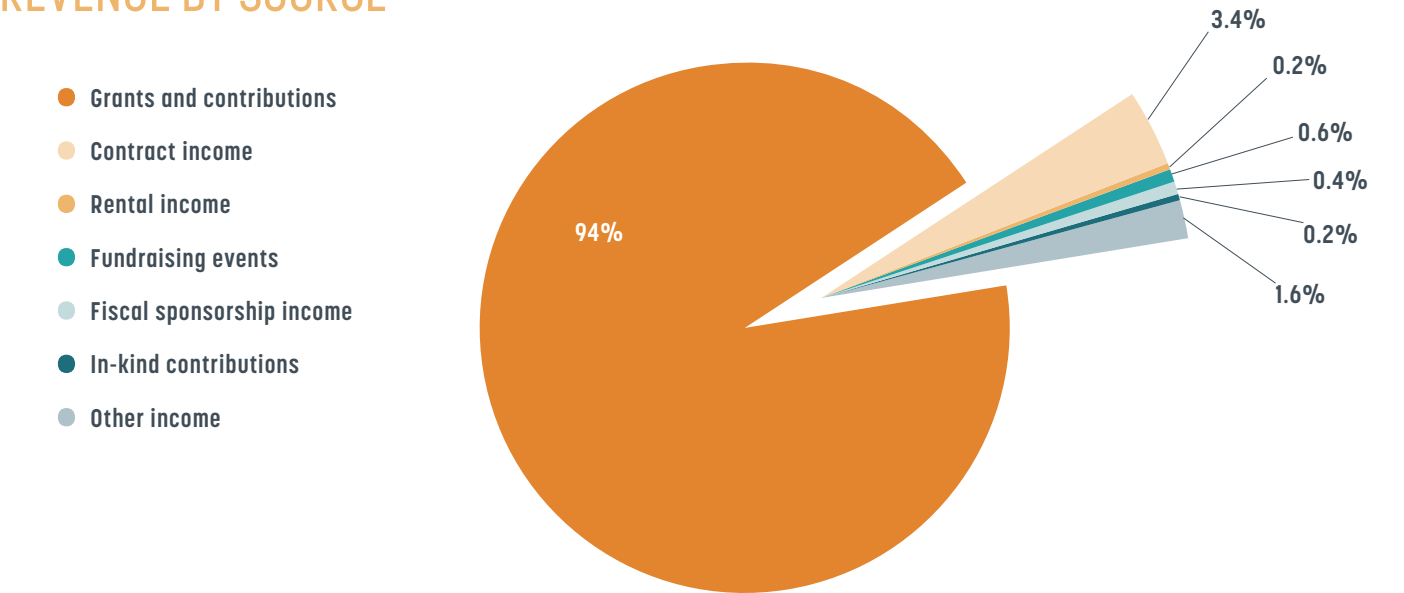
EXPENSES	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	TOTAL
Program services	\$ 15,459,674	\$ —	\$ 15,459,674
Supporting services:			
Management and general	3,732,473	—	3,732,473
Fundraising	860,123	—	860,123
Total supporting services	4,592,560	—	4,592,560
Total expenses	20,088,234	—	20,088,234
Change in Net Assets	338,887	10,573,274	10,912,161*
Net Assets, beginning of year	317,083	6,629,088	6,946,171
Net Assets, end of year	655,970	17,202,362	17,858,332

\* This portion of revenue was raised in 2017 and allocated to subgrant and other expenses that will be incurred in 2018.

## CPD REVENUE GROWTH 2012-2017



## REVENUE BY SOURCE



## MONEY RAISED FOR OUR STATE PARTNERS

Includes money raised by CPD/CPD Action

\$13,694,038



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Senior Research Analyst

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Director of Development

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Phil Astin

**STAFF ACCOUNTANT**

Amanda Avalos  
Operations Support Lead

**ADY BARKAN**

Co-Director of Local Progress, Co-Director of Fed Up

**GREG BASTA**

Director of Sustainability Initiatives

**ELISSA BERGER**

Chief Operating Officer for Systems, Finance and Legal Compliance

**LEAH BOUDREAUX**

Director of Operations Support

**XIOMARA CARO**

Director of New Organizing Projects

**AMY CARROLL**

Chief of Staff

**OONA CHATTERJEE**

Director of Organizing & Capacity Building

**JOELLEN CHERNOW**

Director of Special Projects

**WYATT CLOSS**

Director of Strategic Communications & Public Affairs

**TRACEY CORDER**

Director of Racial Justice Campaigns

**MARGARET CORSER**

Research Analyst

**TIFFANY CRUZ**

National Canvass Director

**HETAL DALAL**

Director of Legal Compliance

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