

2021

ANNUAL REPORT



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TO OUR COMMUNITY

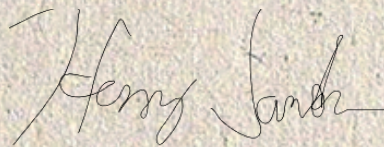
The year 2021 was exciting for CIRC Action Fund. We began implementing our vision to become a full-time political and advocacy organization. For the first time, we created a non-electoral year budget to allow our talented staff to support our legislative work and strategize with immigrant communities on building local power.

In the first few months, our full-time CIRC Action Fund team coordinated an ambitious lobbying and legislative communications strategy to build political power in the State Capitol. We helped prepare our directly impacted members, managed relationships with legislators, supplied critical op-eds to build public support in key legislator districts and coordinated strategy with our campaign steering committees and lobbyists. This infrastructure was critical in passing Colorado's Legal Defense Fund and a bill on data privacy.

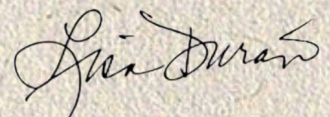
In the fall, we made endorsements for municipal elections across the Denver-metro region and helped elect three candidates. Our wins in Aurora ensured the City Council did not become a conservative majority – an example of how local races invoke change. In fact, the election was tainted by more than \$1 million in investments by national ultra-right wing forces in only one city council district.

For the November election, we returned to in-person canvassing after running an entirely remote campaign in 2020 due to COVID. While we are proud of our wins, we witnessed some challenges including lowered voter turnout, especially in communities of color, which we expect will continue this year. But, through our commitment to our communities, our values and our vision for change, we hope to turn this trend around in the communities in which we work.

The year 2022 is critical for our movement. While Trump was defeated in 2020, the forces he represents are still hard at work, and it will take an inspired and coordinated effort to defeat them. The CIRC Action Fund team is deeply committed to continue building political power for our immigrant communities in 2022 and beyond. We are grateful to all those who contributed in any way to our movement – especially to our organizers, volunteers, and donors – and we hope to have your continued support and enthusiasm this year.



Managing Director Henry Sandman



Lisa Duran Executive Director



MISSION & VISION

CIRC Action Fund was established in 2012 to build a strong and thriving Colorado where all residents are treated with dignity and respect, have equal access to a fair quality of life and the opportunity to live united with family.

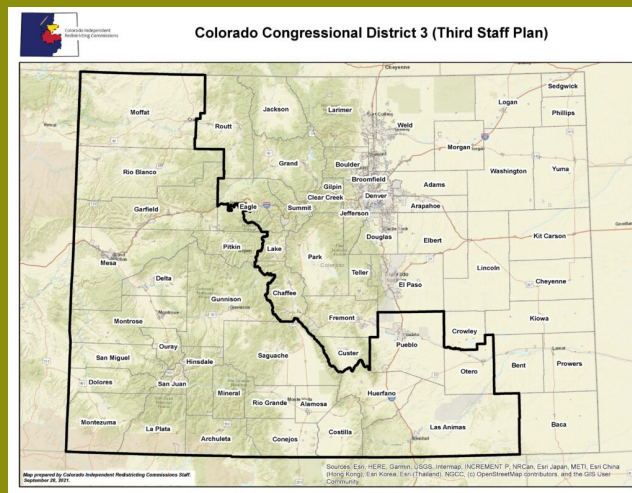
Our mission compels us to elect and protect candidates with a history of championing immigrant rights issues and to mobilize an electorate of People of Color and New Americans that reflects the populations where we work.

CIRC Action aims to shape Colorado as a national champion of cutting edge pro-immigrant elected and appointed leaders and to become Colorado's premier multicultural and intersectional statewide political advocacy organization.



OUR GROWTH

- 2012 CIRC Action Fund is established
 - 2014 Partnered with Latino Engagement Fund 13K voters through phone & mail campaign
 - 2018 State Pac is created
 - 2020 Federal Pac is created
- CIRC AF focuses on more rural areas, such as U.S. Congressional District 3 (South/West Slope) where we were the only organization active.



OUR GROWTH

2021

CIRC Action Fund becomes one of the biggest immigrant and POC voter outreach organizations in Colorado.



Denver's Latinx population of 30% becomes proportionally represented on city council by 38% thanks to our involvement in electing Jamie Torres and Candi CdeBaca.



On the horizon

CIRC Action Fund plans to launch a small donor committee



IN THE LEGISLATURE

CIRC and CIRC Action Fund were able to pass the following bills:

- **HB21-1194**-to create an Immigration Legal Defense Fund, which creates a grant program to provide legal representation for Coloradans with deportation cases. Passing HB21-1194 also makes Colorado one of the first states in the nation to create a statewide legal defense fund program through statute.



- **SB21-131**-to Protect Personal Identifying Information Kept By State, which limits ICE's access to state databases, in particular the DMV.

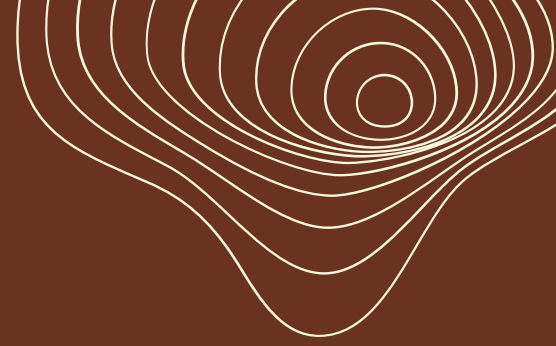


IN THE LEGISLATURE

- Our work allowed us to accumulate a significant amount of political capital, which in turn helped us pass our bills.
- We focused on coalition building and organizing political entities that CIRC didn't have access to - such as other advocacy groups, PACs, county democratic parties and clubs, democratic party caucuses - to help move and lobby specific lawmakers.
- CIRC Action also supported our CIRC lobbying team by leading a legislative communications campaign that focused on attaining both earned media and social media exposure to our priority legislative issues.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



- We accumulated more than 50 media hits for both campaigns. Many of those included letters to the editor and Op-Eds written by CIRC members.



- A close collaboration between CIRC and CIRC Action Fund during the legislative session and a robust communication strategy are key campaign activities we will continue in future sessions.



ACCOUNTABILITY

2021 Legislative Session
We held Hickenlooper accountable and pushed him to co-sponsor the U.S. Citizenship Act, the SECURE Act, and the Citizenship for Essential Workers Act.

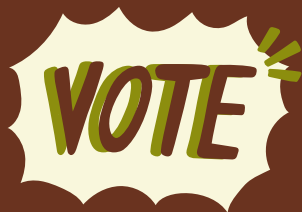
This was a slap in the face to thousands of immigrants in CO working on the frontlines to keep our country running throughout the pandemic

FEB. 4, 2021

Hickenlooper voted to block vital stimulus payments to undocumented immigrants

2020 Election Cycle

CIRC Action Fund contacted 300,000 voters to support now U.S. senator John Hickenlooper



MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

2021

BY THE NUMBERS



14,065 Doors knocked



2,041 Door Conversations



52,759 Text messages sent



2,836 Text Conversations



4,877 Local voter conversations



20,302 Mailers sent



8,407 Vote & Give Subscribers



535,131 Digital Impressions



MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

2021

10 ENDORSED CANDIDATES

- John Ronquillo (Aurora City Council At-Large)
- Candice Bailey (Aurora City Council At-Large)
- Crystal Murillo (Aurora City Council Ward #1)
- Bryan Lindstrom (Aurora City Council Ward #2)
- Ruben Medina (Aurora City Council Ward #3)
- Shenika Carter (Commerce City - City Council At-Large)
- Lucy Molina (Commerce City - City Council Ward #1)
- Renée Millard Chacon (Commerce City - City Council Ward #3)
- Xóchitl Gaytán (Denver School Board - District #2)
- Araceli Calderon (Greeley-Evans School Board - District #6)



Crystal Murillo
(Aurora City Council Ward #1)

3 WINS



Xóchitl Gaytán
(Denver School Board - District #2)



Ruben Medina
(Aurora City Council Ward #3)



MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

2021

WHAT WE WERE UP AGAINST THIS ELECTION CYCLE:

\$1 million spent by independent conservative committees on the Aurora City Council races

\$30,000 budget allocated by CIRC Action Fund's own New American Victory Fund

VS



\$150,000 spent by independent progressive committees in Aurora's races

3 local races won by anti-immigrant candidates



LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE



- **Conservatives have been investing more and more resources into local organizing**
- **While progressive funders have systematically failed to invest in local campaigns and deep year-round canvassing efforts that make a meaningful impact on long-term trust with BIPOC voters**



- **As Colorado faces a new political landscape with redrawn Congressional maps, many districts will become more competitive in 2022**
- **Building power outside of the Denver-metro area with a strong ground game that strengthens our statewide grassroots base as early as possible will prove key to achieving major victories in 2022**



OUR 2021-2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

KARLA GONZALEZ GARCIA - CO-PRESIDENT

Director of Organizing and Community Partnerships,
Hunger Free Colorado

CAITLIN TRENT - CO-PRESIDENT

i2iStrategies LLC

NADEEN IBRAHIM - SECRETARY

Community Organizer, East Colfax Community Collective
Vice President, Muslim Youth for Positive Impact

SARAH PLASTINO - CO-TREASURER

Sarah Plastino Consulting LLC

CORINNE RIVERA FOWLER - CO-TREASURER

Ballot Initiative Strategy Center (BISC)
CO Working Families Party
Good Business Colorado

HELEN OH

Litigation Attorney, Tyrone Glover Law, PLLC

ASHLEY WHEELAND

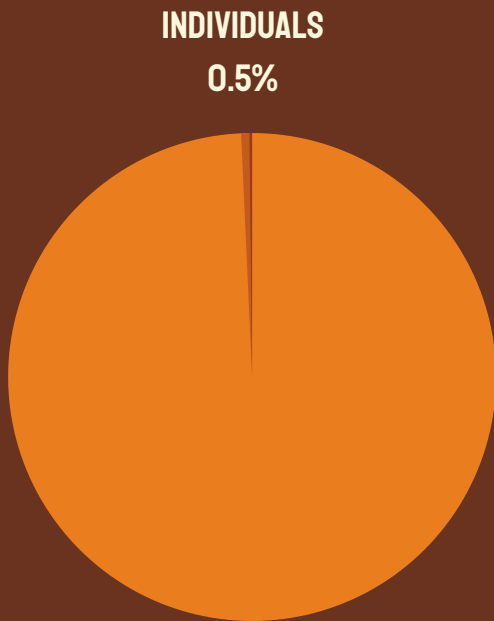
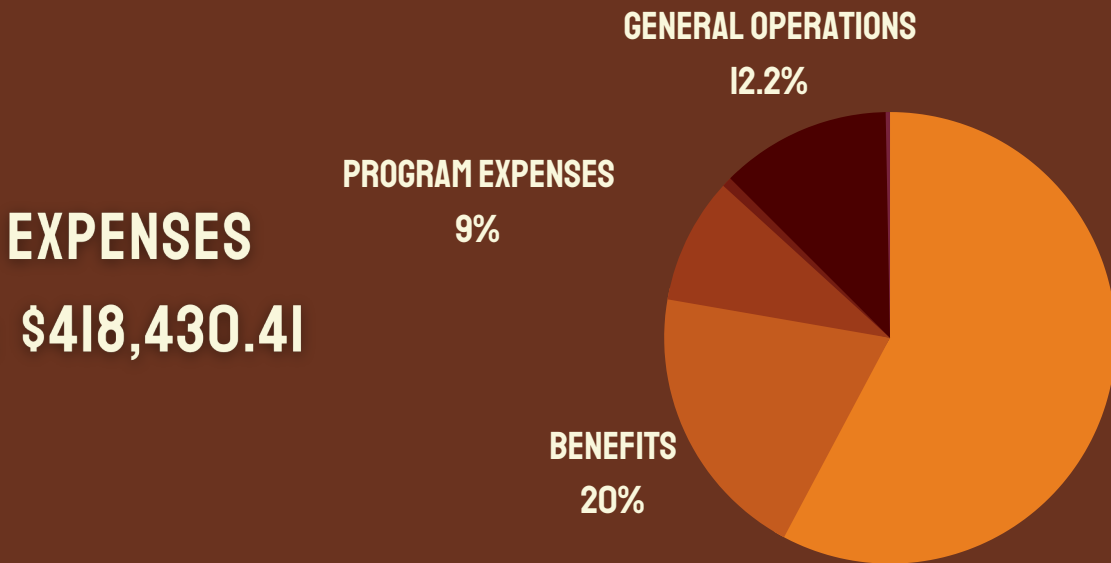
Director of Public Policy, Hunger Free Colorado



BY THE NUMBERS

2021 EXPENSES

TOTAL: \$418,430.41



2021 INCOME SOURCES

TOTAL: \$527,295.73



2021

INSTITUTIONAL DONORS

COMMUNITY
Power from the ground up **CHANGE** **ACTION**



A fund of NEO Philanthropy






New American Majority Fund

REAL RECOVERY NOW



HERE'S HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT US

- Follow us on social media

- @CIRCActionFund 
- @circ_actionfund 
- @CIRC_ACTION 

- Volunteer

- Donate

- One-time or monthly

- Sign up for our updates at

CIRCACTION.ORG

