



Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition 2014 Annual Report



COLORADO CRIMINAL JUSTICE
REFORM COALITION

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Our Mission

The mission of the Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition is to reverse the trend of mass incarceration in Colorado. We also unilaterally oppose the use of for-profit, private prisons in Colorado.

About Us

The Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition (CCJRC) is a non-profit organization that was formed in 1999 to halt the exponential growth in the state prison population. CCJRC believes that we are currently overusing incarceration and that a comprehensive reevaluation of current criminal justice policy is necessary. We advocate for the expansion of funding for treatment, alternatives to incarceration, and reintegration services to people leaving prison. We also unconditionally oppose the use of for-profit prisons in Colorado. In 2014, CCJRC expanded our capacity. We realigned our staffing matrix, creating two new positions to strengthen our leadership development and to accommodate our emphasis on health care access. We hired Juston Cooper to be our Deputy Director and Terri Hurst to be our Policy Coordinator.

Framework for Change

Oppose Prison
Expansion

Build & Mobilize a
Statewide Coalition

Policy Reform

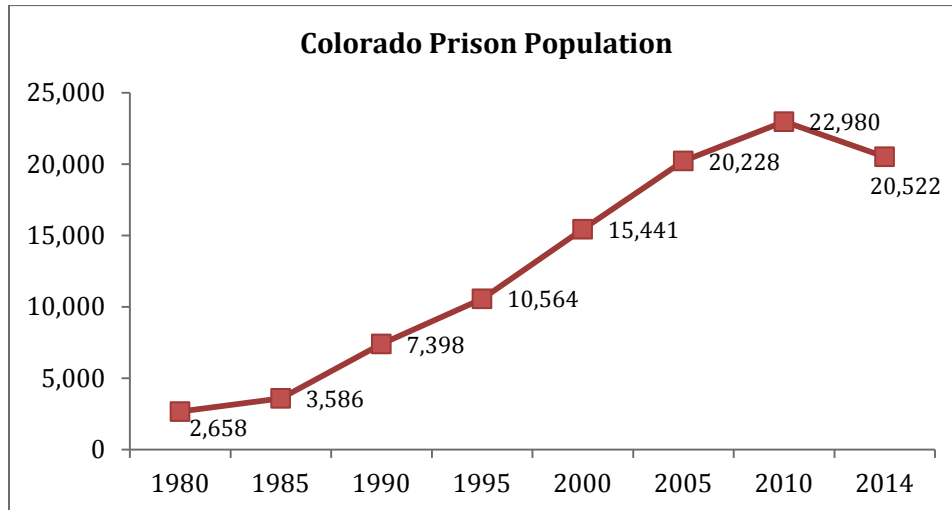
Resource for
People Impacted

Strategies

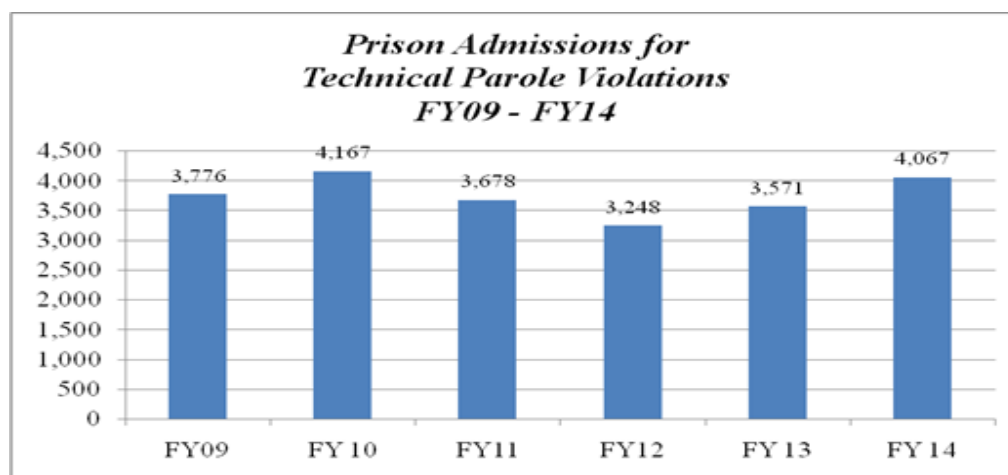
- ❖ Public Education
- ❖ Research
- ❖ Policy Advocacy
- ❖ Community Organizing
- ❖ Coalition Building
- ❖ Litigation
- ❖ Lobbying

Mass incarceration in Colorado

In 1985, the Colorado Legislature passed HB85-1320 (known as the “Mielke” bill) which doubled the maximum prison sentence for all felony offenses. At the time, it was believed that HB1320 would have little impact on the prison population. However, within the first five years of passage the prison population doubled and continued to grow at unprecedented rates until the middle of 2010 when it began to decline. Unfortunately, this trend didn’t continue and the population started to grow again, albeit at a slower rate, in 2013 and 2014.



Another major driver in the growth of the prison population is the high rate of failure for people on parole; not for committing a new crime, but for violating a condition of parole. These are called “technical” violations and can include things like failing to have a job, or to report to a parole officer or to not participate in treatment or other mandatory programs. In 2014, over 4,000 parolees were revoked for a technical violation of parole which was almost 40% of ALL prison admissions.



Not only does this affect the life of many people who are needlessly re-incarcerated, it also drives an increase in the DOC budget which increased from \$770 million to \$808 million.

Of course, mass incarceration would not occur without the War on Drugs, which has demonized people, destabilized communities, devastated families and incarcerated millions.

Reviewing Our Success!

This year, CCJRC had the privilege of being selected for nonprofit of the month by the Open Media foundation. CCJRC and the Open Media forged a strong partnership that produced two online video's helping to promote social justice change in Colorado. One of the videos produced was from CCJRC's participation in the 2014 Denver Colorado Martin Luther King Marade. We marched alongside social justice reformers, advocates, groups and individuals all committed to upholding the legacy of Dr. King.



Under the Dome-DC style

CCJRC's *Communications Coordinator-Pam Clifton* was invited to speak before a Congressional committee in Washington, DC on the subject of children of incarcerated parents. Her testimony and advocacy in front of the congressional sentencing commission was a "tear jerker" as she eloquently articulated the devastating impact on children and parents who are separated by incarceration.

Under the Dome-CO style

CCJRC is excited to share some great news about the passage of state legislation that created the first-ever grant initiative to provide community based re-entry services to people released from prison in Colorado. CCJRC and partners worked in support of HB14-1355 that created and funded a new grant program in the Department of Corrections. The grant program is administered by the

Latino Coalition for Community Leadership for the DOC and grants were awarded to the Second Chance Center (Aurora), Servicios de la Raza (Denver), Bridge House (Boulder), and Christ Life Ministries (Pueblo). Many people with personal experience are working in the field of community reentry and CCJRC is proud to support their leadership.



Community and Field Development

In 2014, CCJRC also offered two new training programs intending to enhance the knowledge and skills of people/organizations interested in criminal justice

reform. Learning for Leadership was a six-week (12 hour) training that provided a historical and data-based overview of the drivers of mass incarceration, drug policy, privatization/state budget, and strategies for change. This training was provided to 36 people from eight different organizations in the Denver metro area.

Building Bridges was a two-day (16 hour) training specifically for community based direct service providers whose clients include justice-involved people. We trained over 75 people from Denver, Buffalo and Los Angeles on social change strategies that were specific to issues affecting their clients like expanding opportunities for housing, employment, and healthcare. Historically, organizations involved in social change have been removed from those providing direct service (broadly speaking) and vice versa. CCJRC is trying to change that.



Increase Access to Health Care for Justice Involved People



In the summer of 2013, CCJRC launched a new campaign called “Take Care Health Matters” to increase access to healthcare and behavioral health treatment for justice involved people as a result of new opportunities under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). CCJRC realized that the ACA was a “game changer” for justice involved people and was an opportunity to not only work toward greater health and health equity, but also to pivot drug/mental health policy away from the dominance of the criminal justice system and into health care policy.

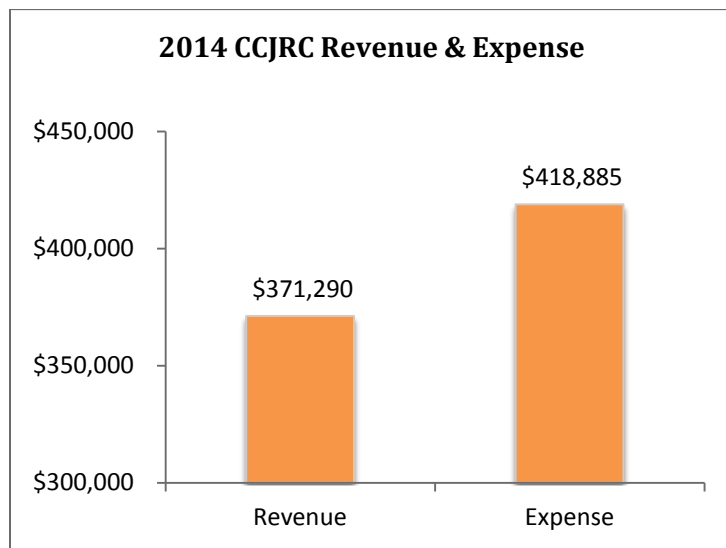
Therefore, CCJRC realigned our entire organizational capacity and work plan in 2014 to increase our ability to advance access to health care for justice-involved populations.

During 2014, CCJRC provided training and education to over 550 professionals in criminal justice, behavioral health, healthcare and community direct service organizations and launched the campaign website, www.takecarehealthmatters.org. The website provides full comprehensive information specifically for justice involved people and criminal justice and health agencies. This project has garnered national attention as CCJRC is one of only a handful of criminal justice reform organizations that has come into healthcare advocacy as a result of the ACA.



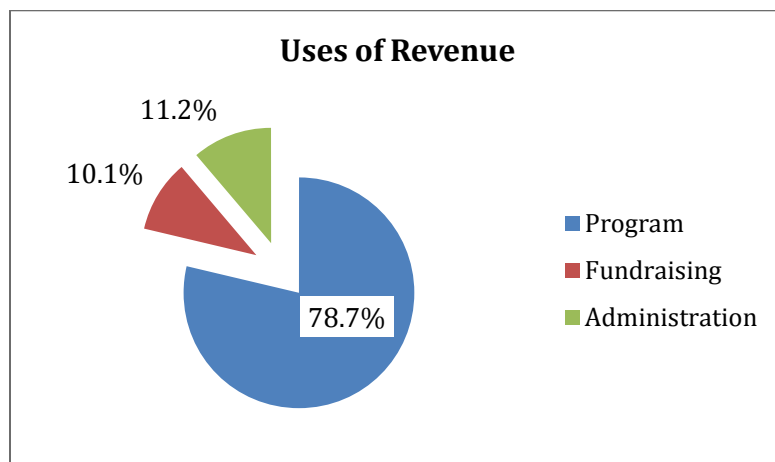
Resources and Financial Management

Through careful planning and stewardship of our funds, CCJRC is in a healthy financial position. The main reason for this is that we have been successful in establishing multiple fundraising strategies in order to diversify our funding sources, including foundation grants, earned income, individual donations, our annual fundraising event and membership in Community Shares of Colorado. CCJRC also has an automated monthly giving program called *Freedom Fighters*.



<u>Source of Revenue</u>	
Foundation Grants	55%
Earned Income	19%
Individual Donations	14%
Annual Event	12%

Note: Revenue reported above does not include a \$100,000 grant received in late 2013 for use in 2014.



CCJRC's chief financial administrator is Christie Donner, Executive Director, christie@ccjrc.org



The 2014 Voices for Justice annual event was a huge success! Thank you to all our volunteers, the committee, sponsors, attendees and honoree for making this an unforgettable event!

\$750 - Advocate Sponsors

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\$500 - Freedom Fighter Sponsors

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\$250 - Justice Sponsors

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VICENTE
SEDERBERG

CCJRC was proud to honor Claire Levy as the 2014 Rupert Tate Game-Changer Award recipient!

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JUSTICE
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Thank you CCJRC Members

Our members make CCJRC politically powerful and receive our quarterly newsletter, *The Colorado Justice Report*, action alerts, and announcements for community meetings and events.

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