

2015

CCJRC ANNUAL REPORT



Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition
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Our Mission

The mission of the Colorado Criminal Justice reform Coalition is mission is to eliminate the overuse of the criminal justice system and advance community health and safety.

About Us

Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition (CCJRC) is a state-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1999 out of concern in the community about the unprecedented growth in the prison population and budget in Colorado. CCJRC has had a core commitment to reversing the trend of mass incarceration and helping people currently impacted by the criminal justice system.



"We're people convicted of crime, survivors of crime, and the families and allies of both who advocate and organize for public safety strategies that are more effective and just"

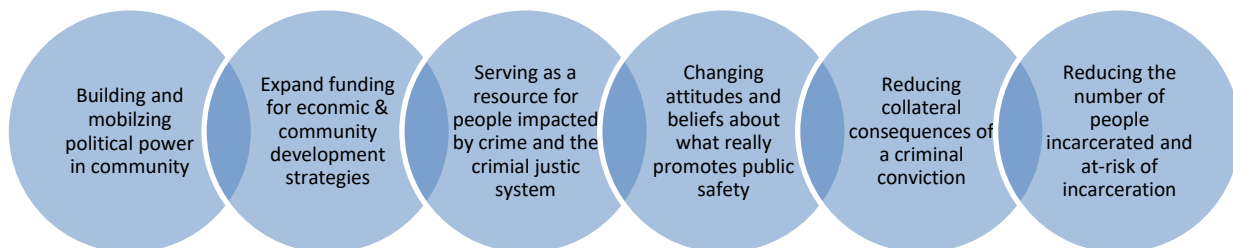
CCJRC Board & Staff

The majority of our staff, Board of Directors and volunteers have been directly impacted by the criminal justice system. We have over 6,000 members statewide, including 800 members that are currently in prison. We respond to over 1,000 requests a year from people in the justice system or their loved ones looking for help navigating, problem solving, or trying to successfully reintegrate back into the community.

CCJRC believes the last three decades of over-incarceration, criminalization, policing and missed opportunities for real crime prevention has done significant damage to individuals, families and communities and repairing that harm, to the greatest extent possible, is essential to us. So, in 2015, CCJRC underwent a year-long strategic planning and re-visioning process that resulted in us expanding our work and mission statement.

CCJRC New Mission: to eliminate the overuse of the criminal justice system and advance community health and safety.

FRAMEWORK FOR CHANGE

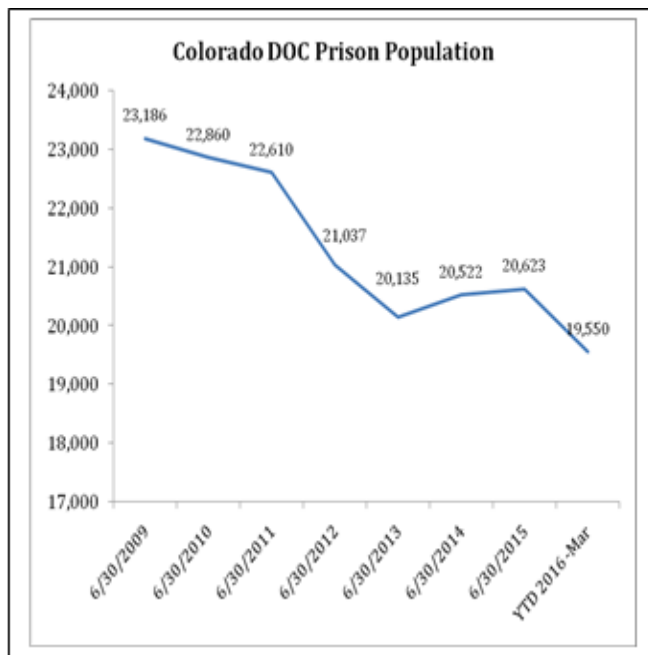
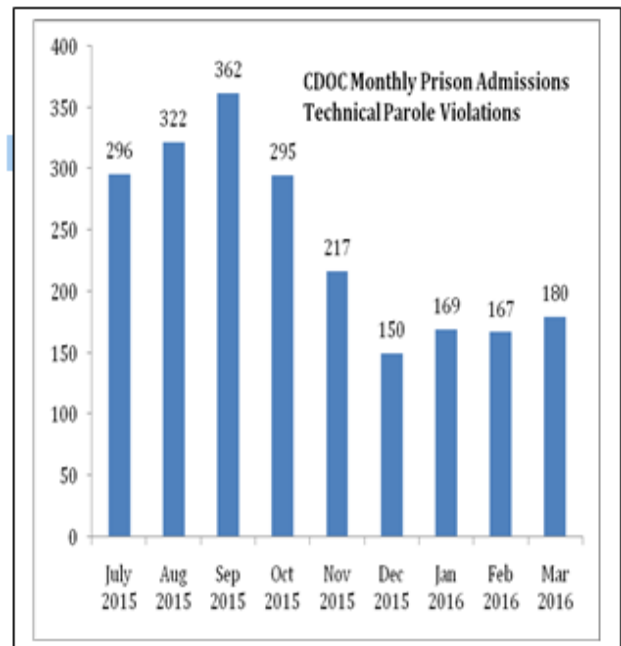


Overuse of the Criminal Justice System and Mass Incarceration in Colorado

In 1985, Colorado ushered in its “tough on crime” era by passing the Mielke bill that doubled all felony sentences overnight. The prison population doubled within five years and doubled again over the next ten years. Unabated growth in the prison population peaked in June 2009 and started to decline after the passage of numerous criminal justice reform bills on sentencing and parole. CCJRC was involved in many of these legislative campaigns. This trend continued until the Department of Corrections Director was killed by a man on parole in March 2013 after which the prison population started to increase again.

In 2014 and 2015, CCJRC worked on legislation that increased community-based reentry support services for people leaving prison (HB14-1355) and reduced technical parole violations (SB15-124). By July 2015, the prison population started to decline again.

Although there are several dynamics involved in the decline of the prison population, there was a dramatic decline in the number of people revoked for a technical parole violation in the last quarter of 2015.



Reviewing our Success & Expanding our Vision



CCJRC engaged in an organizational strategic planning process in 2015, exploring the mission, practices, and projects of the organization. The strategic planning process created an expanded mission. The new mission of CCJRC is to eliminate the overuse of the criminal justice system and advance community health and safety. With a new mission the organization identified potential new objectives, priorities and partnerships that would contribute to advancing community health and safety through, not just smarter criminal justice policies, but also greater financial investment in strategies that do work to

improve community safety, confront racial disparity, and reduce the overuse of the criminal justice system.

UNDER THE DOME-LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

CCJRC's priority bill, SB 124 (Reduce Parole Revocations for Technical Violations) ***Passed unanimously out of both chambers and was signed into law on May 29, 2015.*** Last year, almost 4,000 people were re-incarcerated for a technical violation of parole which is counterproductive to effective reentry and wastes tens of millions of dollars annual on unnecessary incarceration costs. Evidence-based practice research indicates that effective responses to technical violations are sure, swift, and proportional – not severe, like revocation and incarceration back to prison. Connecting people on parole with support services is also essential for successful reintegration.

Take Care Health Matters Campaign-Increase Access to Health Care for Justice Involved People

Our *Take Care Health Matters* campaign is helping people involved in the criminal justice system access new healthcare opportunities available as a result of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The ACA has the potential to help us pivot away from the overuse of the criminal justice system and to finally treat drug use and mental health disorders as a public health issue, not a criminal one.

We have made tremendous strides in increasing awareness of new opportunities for health care coverage for justice-involved individuals, engaging criminal justice and health care entities in this effort, and developing outreach materials and resources for justice-involved people, as well as criminal justice and health care stakeholders. We have accomplished the following in 2015 that will continue to allow us to advance the work in 2016.

- Convened stakeholder group on a quarterly basis
- Began to do “deep dive” work in Douglas & Arapahoe counties

- Trained over 400 health care and criminal justice professionals including presentations with the Sheriff's Association, at the Colorado State Judicial Conference, Colorado State Community Corrections Conference and Colorado Association of Health Alliances through the Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved. Presentations were also conducted with justice involved people and with staff at community based organizations that work directly with people involved in the criminal justice system
- CCJRC staff was also invited to present about the work of Take Care Health Matters at a the national Community Catalyst Conference focused on Substance Use Disorders

Crime Survivors Campaign

In 2015, CCJRC launched a Crime Survivor Project aimed at better meeting the needs of crime survivor and pivoting public policy more toward crime prevention and rehabilitation rather than mass incarceration and over-policing. We want to help transform the historical separation between advocates who are "for victims" or those that are "for offenders."

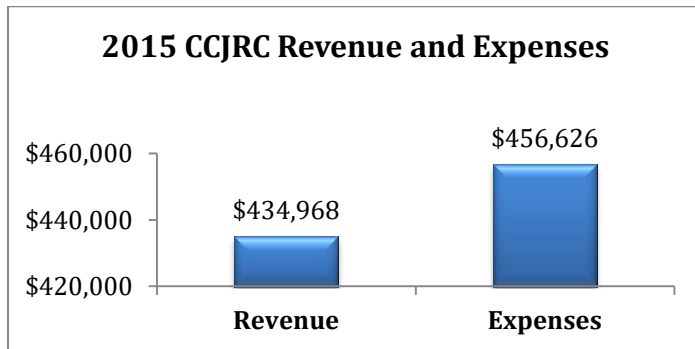
We believe that communities of color sit at the crossroads of both higher rates of incarceration and victimization and it is our intention to cultivate common ground in a safe space to identify strategies that will strengthen community-based services for crime survivors who are currently underserved, and advance policies that promote health, safety and improve quality of life for everyone in the community. We have accomplished the following in 2015 that allows us to advance our crime survivors work in 2016:

- Full comprehensive Colorado Landscape Scan of the provision of services, providers, advocacy and investment in victim/survivor services.
- CCJRC in conjunction with our national coalition partner Common Justice conducted a comprehensive public education and technical assistance workshop on the Federal Funding opportunity to Colorado for victim service through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). This workshop was provided to eight community and faith based organizations who serve low-income, LGBTQ and people of color who have experienced victimization and trauma. Three out of the eight participating organizations were able to apply for the 2016-2017 VOCA funding as a result of the workshop.

Civic Engagement: Through intense strategic planning In 2015 CCJRC prioritized building capacity to expand and scale our civic engagement efforts. We developed strategies that included the development of new materials for increased public education on voting rights and eligibility for people with criminal backgrounds in anticipation of the 2016 election cycle. Colorado does not disenfranchise anyone convicted of a felony but most people don't know that. Consequently, our focus is on broad public education on the nuances of voter eligibility for people with criminal records and training organizations that are involved with voter registration or GOTV efforts. ***A total of seven community based organizations with approximately 90 people were trained in 2015.***

Resources and Financial Management

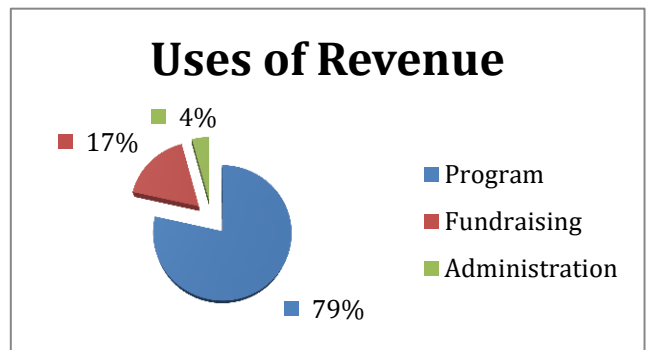
Through careful planning and stewardship of our funds, CCJRC is in a healthy financial position. The main reason for this is that we have been successful in establishing multiple fundraising strategies in order to diversify our funding sources, including foundation grants, earned income, individual donations,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



Foundation Grants	64%
Earned Income	12%
Donations	24%

Statement of Financial Position (As of 12/31/2015)

Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$479,856
Inventory	\$ 1,888
Total Current Assets	\$481,744
Non Assets	
Total Non Current Assets	\$ 0
Property and Equipment	
Hardware and Equipment	\$ 4,760
Software	\$ 330
Furniture and Fixtures	\$ 550
	\$ 5,640
Less Accumulated Depreciation	\$ (5,640)
Total Property & Equipment	\$ 0
TOTAL ASSETS	\$481,744
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Current liabilities	
Fiscal Agent	\$ 800
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 800
Total Unrestricted Net Assets	\$480,944
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$481,744



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

Our sincerest thanks to those who sponsored the 2015 Voices for Justice event. Also to those freedom fighters who support us on a monthly basis all year long as well as all of our very generous donors. Your support is deeply appreciated

CCJRC 2015 Voices for Justice Sponsors

Contributing Sponsors



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CCJRC was proud to honor Lisa Calderon as the 2015 Rupert Tate Game-Changer Award recipient!



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.

Board Members

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- Lisa Raville - Secretary
- Joe Mauro
- Mardy Wilson
- Kathleen Lord
- Hassan Latif
- Mandy Rigg-Vice President
- Magalie Lerman
- Taryn Van Deusen
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Staff Members

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- Juston Cooper, Deputy Director
- Christie Donner, Executive Director
- Terri Hurst, Policy Coordinator