

2016

CCJRC ANNUAL REPORT



Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition
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Our Mission

The mission of the Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition to eliminate the overuse of the criminal justice system and advance community health and safety!

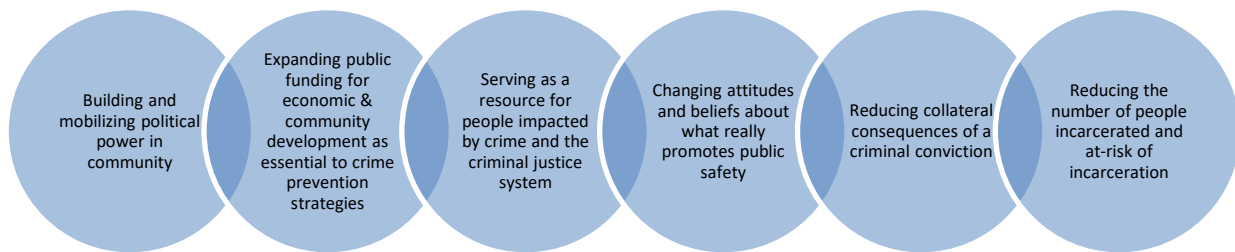
About Us

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.

The majority of our staff, Board of Directors and volunteers have been directly impacted by the criminal justice system. We have over 8,000 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.

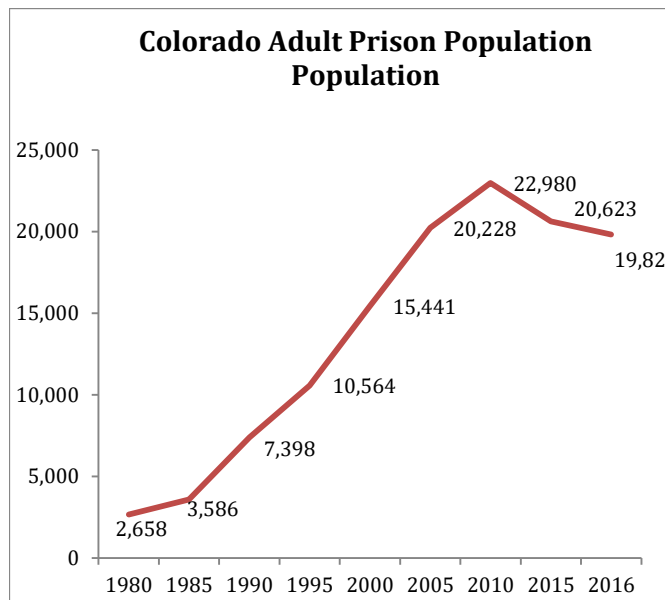
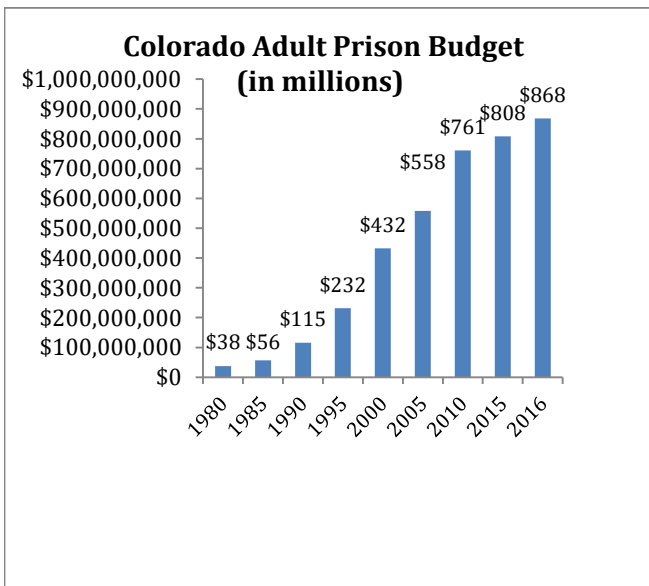
FRAMEWORK FOR CHANGE



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. In reaction, parole revocations increased which caused the overall prison population to start to grow again.

In 2014 and 2015, CCJRC redoubled its efforts and successfully advocated for the passage of numerous bills aimed at reducing the number of people on parole who were revoked and returned to prison. By July 2015, the prison population had started to decline and had dropped sufficiently enough that the Kit Carson Correctional Facility, a private prison operated by Corrections Corporation of America, was closed in mid-2016. This is the sixth prison to close in Colorado since 2009.



Reviewing our Success & Implementing our Vision

2016 was a year of growth as CCJRC stepped into our mission that was expanded after a strategic planning and re-visioning process involving the board, staff, and key allies in 2015. Our new mission of eliminating the overuse of the criminal justice system and advancing community health and safety creates a double bottom line that has always been part of our organizational DNA but not necessarily in as broad of an impact as necessary. Consequently, 2016 was all about stepping into those bigger shoes.

UNDER THE DOME-LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

CCJRC's focus in 2016 was helping to protect and support good criminal justice policy and fight to defeat policy that would have enacted harsh drug law penalties. Additionally our focus was on the implementation of previous parole reform successes, namely HB14-1355 which created the first community reentry grant program (WAGEES grant program), and SB15-124 which strengthened intermediate sanctions and expanded funding for HB14-1355 grant program.



Both bills were aimed at reducing technical revocations for people on parole and CCJRC has been actively involved in effective implementation. The WAGEES grant program provided \$1.7 million to support community re-entry organizations where most of the leadership and staff are former inmates. Their leadership and care is transforming the field of reentry. Their efforts and other policy reforms have been successful in reducing technical parole violations, which accounted for 1 of every 3 people sent to prison, and the prison population started to decline again throughout 2016.

CCJRC was also part of a task force that made additional parole reform recommendations to the Colorado Commission on Criminal & Juvenile Justice. The recommendations were narrowly rejected by one vote and consequently did not give rise to legislation during the 2016 legislative session.

In the longer term, CCJRC is very excited about a legislative idea we are working on that would transform our approach to community reinvestment. Historically, we've had several successes with "traditional" justice reinvestment legislation that has included criminal justice reforms that save money in the state prison budget and then reinvest those savings mostly going to other criminal justice agencies for "system improvement" initiatives. Part of our strategic planning process brought us clarity that our approach to reinvestment was going to focus on community-based initiatives, not criminal justice system initiatives.

In 2017, we will be proposing legislation that would reinvest savings from parole reforms in the bill to a crime prevention initiative focused on economic and community development. This pilot would identify one or more communities that experience higher rates of crime and criminal justice involvement in a "place-based" approach. More to come!

Take Care Health Matters Campaign

Increasing Access to Health Care for Justice Involved People - Our Take Care Health Matters campaign continued to move the needle on ensuring justice involved people were getting enrolled in health care coverage and accessing health care services in the community. We focused our trainings and outreach to health care and criminal justice stakeholders by conducting a “deep dive” in the 18th Judicial District (Arapahoe, Douglas, Elbert and Lincoln counties) where we conducted health care 101 trainings in every probation office. We also began working with specific health care entities in the judicial district to start working on an “access to care” pilot for individuals being released jail. We also published a health care consumer guide specific for justice involved people. We distributed over 10,000 copies of the “Your Health Matters” booklet to in efforts to help justice involved people understand what benefits are offered through Medicaid, how to find a doctor, dentist or therapist and how to navigate the health care system.

Civic Engagement Campaign

Since 2006, CCJRC had coordinated the only civic engagement effort in the state that focuses on increasing voter turnout among people with a criminal record. Colorado does not have permanent disenfranchisement and, in fact, most people that are currently involved in the justice system are eligible to vote. However, that is not widely known and this misinformation is having a chilling effect on voter turnout, particularly among communities of color that are disproportionately impacted by over-policing and mass incarceration. In 2016, CCJRC prioritized building capacity to expand and scale our civic engagement efforts. In addition to our Know Your Rights trainings and public education campaigns, we also helped launch a Jail Based Voting project in conjunction with the Denver Elections Division and the Denver Sheriff’s Department, to both educate and help eligible people confined in jail register to vote. We produced a video which is being shown in the Denver City Jail on the inmate education channel and helped register **300** voters in the Denver Detention Center and Denver County Jail.



The following is some press coverage this pilot project received.

- June 8th Denver Sheriff’s Department Press Release: <https://www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/sheriff-department/news-events/2016/denver-elections-division-debuts-confined-voter-program.html>
- June 8th Tucson – Denver Jails to Start Courting inmate voters http://tucson.com/dust-on-i--inmate-voters-jet-hits-van/collection_54a976d4-8837-5fd5-b612-331b94f0fdcc.html
- June 8th Denver Post article: <http://www.denverpost.com/2016/06/08/new-program-aims-to-help-eligible-denver-inmates-vote/>
- July 6th- Who is Eligible to Vote Know your Rights – OpEd Submission Christie Donner <http://www.denverpost.com/2016/07/06/who-is-eligible-to-vote-know-your-rights/>
- June 8th CBS 4 News: <http://denver.cbslocal.com/2016/06/08/denver-jails-to-start-courting-inmate-voters/>
- July 10th – Denver’s 7 Program Aims to Register Eligible Inmates to vote <http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/politics-unplugged/program-aims-to-register-eligible-inmates-to-vote>
- June 8th Colorado Springs Gazette- Denver Jails to Start Courting inmate voters <http://gazette.com/denver-jails-to-start-courting-inmate-voters/article/1577833>

Know Your District Attorney (DA) Campaign



In 2016, CCJRC also launched our “Know Your DA” campaign that focused on increasing voter awareness and participation in several of the contested District Attorney (DA) races. Each of Colorado’s 22 judicial districts elect their own DA to serve a 4 year term. The majority of DA races are uncontested and only one candidate was running. CCJRC targeted three specific DA races that were contested including the 1st Judicial District (Jefferson & Gilpin counties), the 2nd Judicial District (Denver) and the 17th Judicial District (Adams & Broomfield counties).

CCJRC successfully developed and distributed DA candidate Voter Guides and held candidate forums in all three Judicial District. The Forums provided the opportunity for voters to ask candidates questions directly and we got very positive feedback from all the candidates that they thought the forums were productive, fair and well run. In the 1st Judicial District, CCJRC also conducted our first-ever field canvass that went door-to-door in key precincts. We knocked on over 3,500 doors and were able to educate people about the importance of the DA race, distribute the Voter Guide and invite people to the candidate forum.

Our efforts to point a spotlight on the importance of elected DAs to voters are vitally important to moving the needle on criminal justice reform. DAs are the most powerful actors in the criminal justice system and the gatekeepers to mass incarceration.

In 2017, CCJRC’s Know Your DA campaign will focus on increasing transparency and accountability of DA decision-making post-election.

Crime Survivors Campaign

CCJRC’s Crime Survivors campaign gained tremendous momentum by organizing and building relationships with a diverse group of survivors. Our first priority was to better understand the experiences of crime survivors, what needs they have and the extent to which those needs were met, and their policy priorities for advancing community safety and crime prevention. Over the summer and fall of 2016, CCJRC conducted (9) in-person focus groups consisting of a diverse group of crime survivors in the Denver metro with a priority on talking with traditionally underserved survivors, including people of color, men, young adults, and people that also have a criminal record.. Not only did we more informed, the focus groups were also instrumental in helping CCJRC start to build real relationships with survivors and begin organizing.

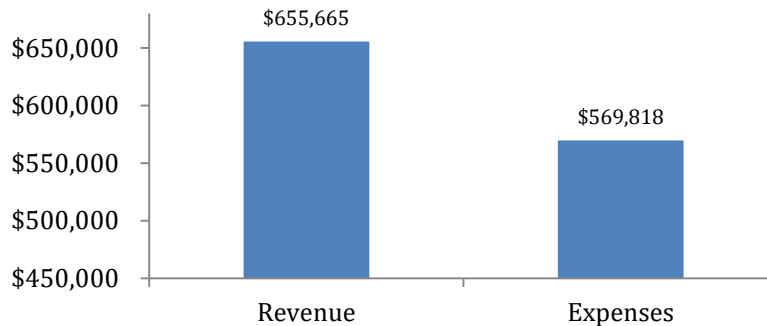
CCJRC also commissioned RBI Strategies and Stay Current Strategies to conduct a poll of crime survivors in the Denver metropolitan area that included an oversample of crime survivors of color. The poll was conducted between August 29th and September 17th, 2016 of 500 people who self-reported being a crime survivor of at least one crime in the past ten years. In 2017, CCJRC will release the findings from both the poll and the focus groups in order to identify and address the myriad of unmet needs, particularly among survivors who have been historically underserved.

We will also continue to organize monthly meetings with crime survivors to begin building and mobilizing their voice in advancing a more just and effective public safety policy agenda.

Financial Overview

Through careful planning and stewardship of our funds, CCJRC is in a healthy financial position. CCJRC has developed 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*.

Revenue & Expenses 2016



Statement of Financial Position (As of 12/31/2016)

Current Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$567,068
Inventory	<u>\$ 625</u>
Total Current Assets	\$567,693

Non Assets

Total Non-Current Assets	\$ 0
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Property and Equipment

Hardware and Equipment	\$ 4,760
Software	\$ 330
Furniture and Fixtures	<u>\$ 550</u>
	\$ 5,640
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>\$ (5,640)</u>
Total Property & Equipment	\$ 0

TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 567,693</u>
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LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

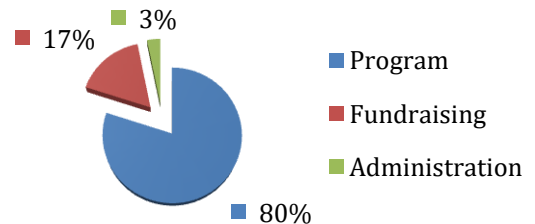
Current liabilities

Fiscal Agent	\$ 800
Accounts payable	<u>\$ 102</u>
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 902

Total Unrestricted Net Assets	\$566,791
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Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$567,693</u>
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Uses of Revenue



Source of Revenue

Foundation Grants	76%
Donations	23%
Earned Income	1%

CCJRC 2016 Voices for Justice Sponsors

Supporting Sponsors



Contributing Sponsors
 Jan and Dave Mackenzie
 Howard and Blanca Lerman
 Greg and Karen Gullely
 Kathleen Lord
 Christie Donner
 Pastor King Harris

Advocate Sponsors

Inside/Out
 a community reentry place
 Freedom Fighter Sponsors

Greer Law Firm, PC
 Tiftickjian Law Firm, LLC
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 Drug Policy Alliance of Colorado
 It Takes A Village
 Mardy Wilson
 Ann Roan and Jim Jenins
 Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council
 Henry Frazier
 Hoffmiller, Ltd.
 Meyer Law Office, PC
 DW Haraburda, LLC

JFM Consulting, LLC



McAllister Law Office P.C.
 CUTTING EDGE COUNSEL FOR THE MARIJUANA INDUSTRY



On September 21, 2016, we held our 8th Annual Voices for Justice fundraiser. We thank and so appreciate the generosity of the sponsors, attendees, and auction item donors for making this great night possible. Just being in a room with a whole bunch of people who are committed to justice, equality and building a more loving community can refresh, restore, and fortify for the work ahead.

CCJRC's Chief Financial Administrator is Christie Donner, Executive Director, christie@ccjrc.org

CCJRC was proud to honor Richard Morales as, the 2016 Rupert Tate Game-Changer Award recipient!

Richard is the Deputy Executive Director of the Latino Coalition for Community Leadership (LCCL). Since 2014, LCCL has been the grant manager for the DOC reentry grant program.

His leadership and bottomless commitment has not only strengthened the field of community-based reentry it has also elevated and supported formerly incarcerated people in their leadership to serve their communities all across the state. Thank you, Richard.

You inspire and strengthen us every day and in all ways!



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

Hassan Latif – President
Lisa Raville - Vice President
Kathleen Lord – Treasurer
Dani Haraburda
Joe Mauro
Hans Meyer
Mandy Rigg
Roselyn Wheeler-Bell
LeAnne Wheeler
Mardy Wilson

Staff Members

Christie Donner, Executive Director
Juston Cooper, Deputy Director
Pam Clifton, Communications Coordinator
Terri Hurst, Policy Coordinator
Alex Landau, Community Outreach Coordinator