

2017

CCJRC ANNUAL REPORT



ADVANCING COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY

GET INVOLVED

Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition
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www.facebook.com/CCJRC

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

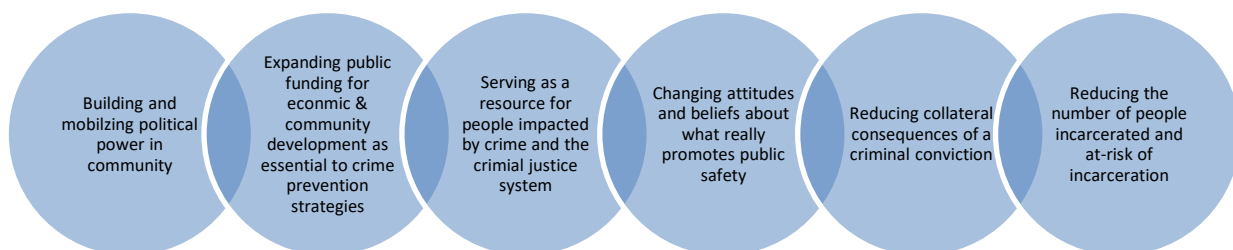
Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition (CCJRC) is a state-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1999 out of concern in the community about the unprecedented growth in the prison population and budget in Colorado. Since 1999, CCJRC has been a leader in the effort to end mass incarceration in Colorado. The staff, Board and volunteers have diverse, personal, and deep experience with the theory and practice of the criminal justice system, as well as knowledge of the politics of criminal justice, which allow for sophisticated analysis, strategic planning and mobilization. CCJRC has a reputation for being highly knowledgeable, skilled, effective, collaborative, and solution-oriented.

CCJRC has also developed authentic working relationships and credibility with law enforcement, prosecutors, defense attorneys, corrections (both prison and jail), and other criminal justice professionals, legislators across the political spectrum, community organizations, faith communities, and people directly impacted by the criminal justice system. The combination of extensive experience and strong relationships is at the core of CCJRC's competency and effectiveness as an organization.

CCJRC has had a core commitment to reversing the trend of mass incarceration and helping people currently impacted by the criminal justice system. We have over 6,000 members statewide, including 1000 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-use of the criminal justice system has done significant damage to individuals, families and communities. Repairing some of that harm, to the greatest extent possible, is also essential to us.

FRAMEWORK FOR CHANGE



Overuse of the Criminal Justice System and Mass Incarceration in Colorado

In Colorado over 120,000 adults in Colorado are involved in the criminal justice system on any given day: 80,000 are on probation, 10,000 are on parole, and thousands more are on bond, in jail, or in a halfway house. Additionally, each year tens of thousands of people are released from prisons and jails across the state. Woven throughout the "get tough" on crime analysis is the chronic and structural racial and class bias that is particularly insidious within the unequal enforcement of laws, racial profiling, the war on drugs, and the criminalization of youth. People of color are vastly over-represented among the justice involved. Whereas 509 people per 100,000 Anglos are incarcerated in Colorado, that rate increases to 1,280 per 100,000 for Latinos, 2,939 per 100,000 for American Indians, and 3,651 per 100,000 for African Americans.

Mass incarceration, rather than enhancing public safety, has had a destabilizing effect on the lives of individuals and communities, particularly people of color and the low-income communities. Prison expansion is fueling the diversion of state funds from education, human services, and other critical programs that are known to improve community stability, self-sufficiency, and strong families. Civil, constitutional, and human rights are increasingly eroded under the guise of fighting crime. Parolees and others with a criminal record face so many barriers – such as finding gainful employment and affordable housing – that economic, social, and political marginalization are likely to be permanent for many.

CCJRC works diligently to help the general public pivot away from the narrative that mass incarceration, over policing and criminalization promotes public safety. It is our belief that public safety is an outcome when communities are able to meet the needs of the people through opportunities for achievement and innovation, meaningful connection with one another, and effective community-based services to help people in times of struggle.

In 2017, CCJRC was able to help usher in a new model and concept that we call Transforming Safety. This concept follows an ambitious and exciting policy strategy that reduces prison spending through reform and capturing those savings for reinvestment into public health and safety strategies determined by and led by communities most impacted by crime and the criminal justice system.

Reviewing our Success & Implementing our Vision

2017 was a year of growth as CCJRC officially launched a brand new campaign called “Transforming Safety”, promoting a new vision for public safety, and expanded our commitment to civic engagement in order to help build and mobilize political power among a largely invisible voting bloc—those with a criminal record, many of whom may not even know that they are able to vote. We are excited to share with you in this report key highlights and outcomes of our 2017 work.

UNDER THE DOME-LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

CCJRC is a pioneer in the country on a legislative strategy we call ***Community Reinvestment (CRI)*** which couples criminal justice policy reform and a reinvestment of prison savings into the community to promote



safety and opportunity. CRI deviates from traditional reinvestment, which prioritizes allocating prison savings, back other criminal justice agencies. CRI emphasize the intention that the investment is in the community, not the system. In 2017, we wrote and helped passed HB17-1326, which is providing \$4 million a year in reinvested prison savings into a crime prevention initiative in two pilot communities, North Aurora and Southeast Colorado Springs. Funding is available for economic development through small business lending and grants for community-based services and programs. This bill had bi-partisan support and the prime sponsors were the Republican chair of the

Senate Judiciary Committee and the Democratic chair of the House Judiciary Committee. There was also no opposition to the bill. Law enforcement and prosecutors said they were “intrigued” by the intention of the initiative. The bill is providing funding through 2020 with a sunset review and reauthorization requirement.

Another particular area of success during 2017 has been the reduction of the number of people who are revoked from parole for a technical violation, particularly for substance use/addiction. The reforms put in place by last year’s SB15-124 have had a real impact, and statewide technical revocations of parole have declined from a high of 362 people revoked per month to just over 200 by the end of the 2017 fiscal year. CCJRC believes this reduction is one of the main reasons that another private prison (Kit Carson Correctional Facility) closed in July 2017.

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 healthcare coverage and accessing care. CCJRC **trained** over 600 criminal justice and health care professionals, as well as community-based organizations and justice-involved people. We also widely distributed educational materials to justice-involved people, including 28,000 postcards, 600 posters, 26,000 brochures, and 1,700 copies of the Consumer Guide. We also conducted focus groups with justice-involved people newly enrolled in Medicaid to understand what is and is not working to ensure our campaign is meeting the needs of those who are directly impacted by the criminal justice system. Over the long run, CCJRC believes that a more robust, accessible, and responsive healthcare and behavioral health system will allow us to better advocate for a pivot of drug policy away from the dominance of the criminal justice context into health care, treatment and harm reduction, where it belongs.

Civic Engagement “Voting With Conviction” Campaign

2017 cemented our civic engagement campaign concept with a new name; “***Voting With Conviction***”! Our *Voting with Conviction* campaign is the only civic engagement initiative in Colorado that specifically focuses on voter engagement of people with a criminal record. Colorado does not have permanent disenfranchisement but that is not widely known. Our efforts focused on: (1) increasing African American turnout in the 2017 Aurora municipal election; (2) voter register and turnout of eligible voters in both jails in Denver; (3) educating people on the nuances of voter eligibility for people with a criminal record; and (4) building civic engagement infrastructure in the black community that can be scaled out and mobilized for the 2018 statewide election.

We are excited to announce we accomplished each goal this year. We also launched our first door-to-door field canvass in the fall 2017 Aurora municipal elections, specifically in Ward III of Aurora which has the highest concentration of African Americans in Aurora. Over an 8-week period, we reached 3,879 doors and had 1,033 in-person conversations. We hired three canvassers, all African American millennials, one of whom couldn’t vote herself because she was still on parole. We also rented ad space at 22 bus shelters around the Denver metro area to encourage African American voter turnout. As a result of this work, Ward III had a higher African American voter turnout than any other Ward in Aurora and also showed a 2% increase over other off-year elections. You can review our 2017 election debrief by going to ccjr.org; click on “making change” to access the report.

Know Your District Attorney (DA) Campaign

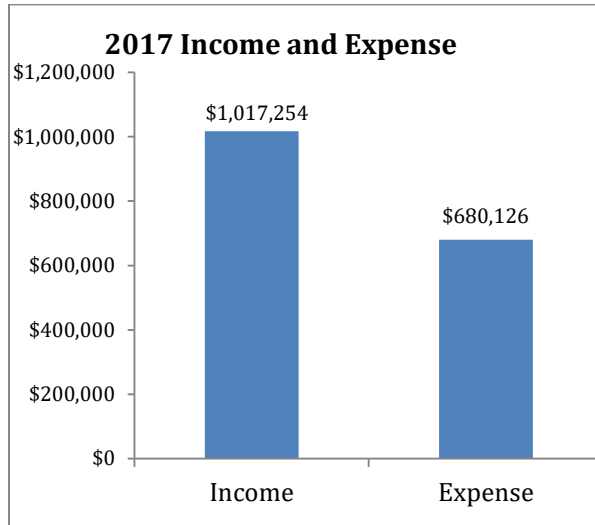
The goal of this campaign is to elevate the profile of and voter engagement in District Attorney races so that they are more transparent and accountable to the communities they are elected to serve. CCJRC joined the Denver District Attorney’s Law Enforcement & Community Advisory Council in 2017. The council is intended to provide a forum to raise concerns and provide guidance to the Denver District Attorney. One chief concern for CCJRC is for the Denver DA to create a more open and consistent line of communication with the community and provide much more detail and data about the decision-making of the DA’s office. Additionally, CCJRC worked with the DA’s office on a new project to revamp their data collection system to be able to better analyze and confront racial disparity in decision making within the Denver DA’s office.

Crime Survivors Campaign

CCJRC launched our statewide crime survivors campaign titled “Colorado Survivors for Health, Safety, and Justice,” in 2016 and have gained tremendous momentum by organizing and building relationships with a diverse group of survivors. We launched this new campaign in part to better reflect our broader mission and to challenge the mainstream construction that victims unilaterally support mass incarceration. Throughout the year, we convened a group to discuss general findings from polling data and focus group findings we conducted in 2016 and to discuss next steps. Our main priority is to expand access to community-based victim services for underserved victims, namely men, people of color and young adults. In 2017, CCJRC visited Common Justice in Brooklyn and the Bronx. Common Justice run a trauma-recovery and victim-offender reconciliation diversion program for people charged with violent offenses who often have been victims of violent crime, themselves. CCJRC invited the Denver District Attorney’s Office in an effort to help develop similar programing in Denver.

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*.



Source of Revenue

Foundation Grants 86%
 Donations- 13%
 Earned Income-1%

Note: 2017 revenue includes a large multi-year grant received in 2017 but available for use in 2017 and 2018.

Statement of Financial Position (As of 12/31/2017)

Current Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$976,115
Inventory	\$ -
Total Current Assets	\$976,115

Non Assets

Total Non-Current Assets	\$ 0
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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 \$ 976,115

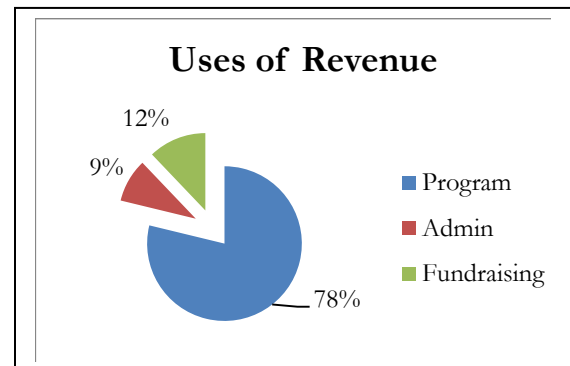
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current liabilities

Fiscal Agent	\$ -
Accounts payable	\$ 196
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 196

Total Unrestricted Net Assets \$975,919

Total Liabilities and Net Assets \$976,115



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

CCJRC 2017 Voices for Justice Sponsors

Voices for Justice Sponsor



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THANK YOU!!

On September 27, 2017, we held our 9th 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 wonderful people committed to justice, equality and building a more loving community can refresh, restore, and fortify for the work ahead.

CCJRC was proud to honor Phil Cherner as, the 2017

Rupert Tate Game-Changer Award recipient!

This year, we are honoring Phil Cherner with the *Rupert-Tate Game Changer Award*. Phil is a deeply respected criminal defense attorney, educator and avid photographer who is a trail blazer, a game changer and advocate for criminal justice reform. Growing up in Detroit, Phil was influenced in his early years by the turbulence of the 1960s by both the Civil Rights and anti-war movements. He moved to Denver in the mid-seventies and became the Deputy State Public Defender in 1979. Phil has skillfully and successfully tried many cases, big and small, from stop sign violations to the death penalty. He has lent his powerful perspective to a number of commissions and committees over the years. Phil has always been an advocate for those people whose voices are often silenced and we are honored to be able to present him with this award.



Thank you CCJRC supporters!

Our supporters and volunteers make CCJRC politically powerful. They receive our quarterly newsletter, *The Colorado Justice Report*, to stay updated on the work we are doing. They respond to action alerts, and attend community meetings and events.

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Alex Landau, Community Outreach Coordinator