

2018

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

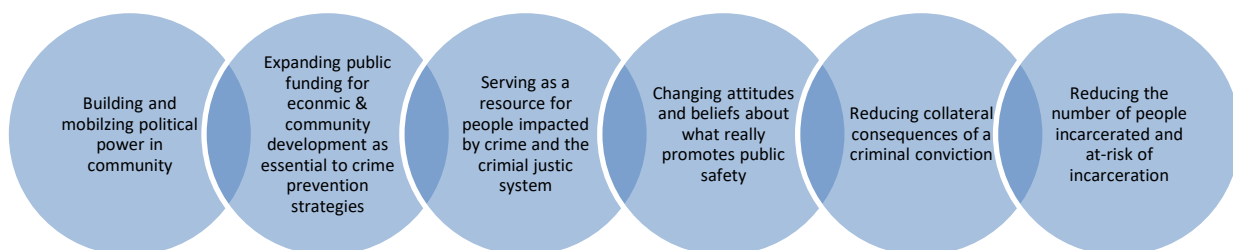
Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition (CCJRC) is a statewide 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1999 out of concern in the community about the unprecedented growth in the prison population and budget in Colorado. Since 1999, CCJRC has been a leader in the effort to end mass incarceration in Colorado. The staff, Board and volunteers have diverse, personal, and deep experience with the criminal justice system which allows 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 people directly impacted by the criminal justice system, community organizations, faith communities, law enforcement, prosecutors, defense attorneys, corrections (both prison and jail), other criminal justice professionals, and legislators across the political spectrum. and. The combination of extensive experience and strong relationships is at the core of CCJRC's competency and effectiveness as an organization.

In addition to eliminating the overuse of the criminal justice system, one of CCJRC's foundational values is to be of help to people currently impacted by the criminal justice system. We have over 6,000 members statewide, including 1,000 members who 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 Our reentry publication, *Getting on After Getting Out*, is very popular and we've heard from many people in prison and on parole that it is an invaluable resource.

CCJRC believes the last three decades of over-use of the criminal justice system have 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

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. While 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 residents of 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 the strength of 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 promote 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 2014, CCJRC pioneered a new public safety approach that we call Community Reinvestment; it provides public funding for community-led and community-based safety strategies. This concept follows an ambitious and exciting policy strategy that reduces prison spending through reform and captures those savings for reinvestment into public health and safety strategies determined and led by communities most impacted by crime and the criminal justice system. To date, CCJR has successfully advocated at the state legislature for the creation of three Community Reinvestment Initiatives, including:

- The WAGEES reentry grant program, which is supporting 18 community-based organizations providing direct services and case management to people leaving prison, in partnership with the Department of Corrections;
- The Transforming Safety grant program, which is a crime prevention initiative being piloted in North Aurora and Southeast Colorado Springs to fund community-based direct services and small businesses, leading to reduce crime and recidivism.
- The Crime Survivors grant program, which is the first in Colorado to specifically focus on providing direct support services to underserved survivors, namely men, people of color, and young adults.

Reviewing Our Success & Implementing Our Vision

UNDER THE DOME-LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

The 2018 legislative session was very successful for CCJRC! We helped defeat not one, not two, but three separate efforts to reopen the Colorado State Penitentiary. Since CCJRC's founding in 1999, this is the first time the Legislature has rejected a request by DOC for more prison beds. We also helped write and successfully lobbied for passage of several bills aimed at reducing and better managing the prison population.



We were most proud of our efforts to “fight for the money” in order to help support community-led efforts to build healthier, stronger, and safer neighborhoods. First, we successfully advocated for the reauthorization of the DOC community reentry grant program and gained a \$3.2 million increase in annual funding. Second, the Crime Prevention Initiative that was created in legislation (HB17-1326) last year – which CCJRC wrote and shepherded through the legislature – received \$4 million in the second year of the pilot to fund small business lending and community-based crime prevention services in N Aurora and SE Colorado Springs. The newest addition to our community investment agenda includes HB18-1409, which CCJRC also wrote and shepherded and which created the first grant program in the state department of public health to expand community-based crime survivor services, with a prioritization on people of color, men, and young adults. Combined, these three initiatives are investing a total of over \$50 million into communities most impacted by crime and mass incarceration over the next several years.

SB18-20 was another priority bill that passed. It allows Registered Psychotherapists to be trained in Auricular Acudetox, an acupuncture protocol that has been shown to improve treatment outcomes and reduce withdrawal and cravings in people who use drugs. It has also been used to help with symptoms of PTSD and is a low-cost treatment that is helpful for people who have experienced trauma.

Take Care Health Matters Campaign

Increasing Access to Health Care for Justice Involved People - During the 4th year of the Take Care Health Matters campaign, CCJRC put a heavier focus on health literacy outreach as we started to see enrollment in Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program) become the standard for people being released from the Department of Corrections (DOC). We updated the *Your Health Matters* consumer guide in the summer and continued to distribute it to all facets of the criminal justice system. We also created a *Health First Colorado 101* video that is being streamed in DOC prisons and facilities across the state to help individuals understand what benefits are covered through Health First Colorado and whom to contact after release to help with accessing health and behavioral healthcare services. CCJRC also worked closely with the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF), which administers Health First Colorado, in creating a Criminal Justice Strategic Plan that HCPF used as a guiding document for their work with justice-involved people. In addition, CCJRC staff participated in numerous stakeholder meetings in efforts to further strengthen the behavioral healthcare system, so that our state can truly pivot away from overusing the criminal justice system for people with addiction disorders and/or a mental illness. Some of the committees included: Denver LEAD Policy Committee, HCPF Improving and Bridging Systems Subcommittee, HCPF Health Care Transitions Workgroup, and the Correctional Treatment Board.

Civic Engagement: The “Voting With Conviction” Campaign

What a year for CCJRC’s “**Voting With Conviction (VWC)**” campaign! We experienced tremendous growth in 2018 by adding new full-time staff, launching our votingwithconviction.org website, and registering with the Colorado Secretary of State’s office as an official voter registration drive. The new opportunity to register justice-involved people to vote expanded our base-building efforts to mobilize political power in communities impacted by crime and mass incarceration. Focusing on the 2018 mid-term elections, CCJRC registered nearly 900 people to vote by being on site in the Denver jails, Denver probation, and other locations.

We also conducted a get-out-to-vote field canvass that knocked on 5,346 doors to talk with African American and justice-involved people in Aurora about voting. The campaign’s phone-banking efforts involved speaking with approximately 1,800 CCJRC members to encourage them to vote as well in the 2018 mid-term elections.

Additionally, we had the pleasure of hiring Jasmine Ross as the campaign’s full-time civic engagement assistant. Bringing young vibrant energy to the campaign, Jasmine first joined us as a part-time canvasser in 2017. Jasmine’s role as the civic engagement assistant added significant support to the campaign by helping recruit over 80 volunteers through the year to support our efforts.



The campaign also pivoted to focusing on policy changes to help strengthen Colorado’s voting system and opportunities for justice-involved people to register to vote and vote. CCJRC participated in a coalition of advocacy organizations to help pass (SB18-150), a new law permitting people on parole to pre-register to vote while on parole and automatic registration upon completion of their sentence starting on 7/1/19. CCJRC helped draft the bill and amendments, educated legislators on Colorado voting law pertaining to people with a criminal record, and provided testimony in support of the passing the bill.

CCJRC also worked with the Secretary of State’s (SOS) office on a new SOS rule that mandates all 56 Colorado county jails must develop and submit a written plan related to ensuring eligible voters in jail are provided with voter information and meaningful opportunities to register to vote and vote while incarcerated.

Educating the general public on the changes in law and policy was vitally important this year. We made a concerted effort to inform voters of these changes through direct interaction with voters, social media, and other media platforms. Most importantly, we continued to increase public awareness about the right of people with a criminal record to vote, by releasing the first statewide poll conducted by Public Policy Polling that demonstrated significant confusion around the voting rights of people with a criminal record. Polling results can be found on our website at www.ccjrc.org

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 DA's are more transparent and accountable to the communities they are elected to serve. In 2018, Boulder County hosted a special DA election, as the sitting DA resigned from the position. CCJRC organized a Boulder DA candidate forum and developed public education materials, including voter guides and palm cards with voter eligibility information and election information. In 2018, CCJRC continued our participation on the Denver DA's Law Enforcement & Community Advisory Council. Participating on this Advisory Council provides direct access to the elected DA for Denver and affords CCJRC the opportunity to advance key issues we care about, including filing/plea bargain/sentencing practices, combatting racial disparity, and expanding diversion for adults charged with a violent crime. We are optimistic that the Denver DA's office is open to creating a pre-filing adult diversion program for certain violent offenses, so long as we can develop the community-based services to support people. The Council also offers us the opportunity to connect with a broad range of involved community groups.

Crime Survivors for Health, Safety and Justice Campaign

Survivors calling for reform elevated their voices in 2018 by contributing their stories and policy preferences in a report released by CCJRC entitled, "*Victims Speak.*" CCJRC in conjunction with the Public Polling Policy institute surveyed 500 crime survivors of crime in the Denver metro area, with an oversampling of victims of color to better understand the needs and policy preferences of survivors.

The results were published in a report in April of 2018, and one of the most profound findings was the lack of community-based support services, particularly for men, people of color, and young adults. Motivated by this information, CCJRC organized with survivors, local stakeholders and community organizations to pass HB19-1409. HB1409 created the first ever community-based victims services grant program specifically to reach these underserved populations.

Survivor's testimony was essential to successfully passing HB18-1409, but that was not the only contribution survivors made this year to the community. Aligning with the National Crime Victims' Rights Week, which is representative of a growing national movement elevating the profile of a diverse group of survivors' voices across the nation, Colorado Crime Survivors for Health, Safety and Justice hosted the first ever "Day of Healing," focusing on the voices of survivors and turning their healing into action. By placing survivors at the center of the conversation on how survivors heal from short- and long-term trauma, survivors participated in in-depth discussions on what meets their needs.

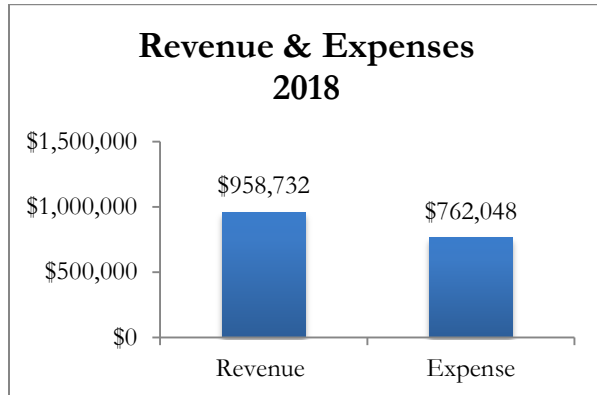
Attendees also participated in a multitude of healing modalities ranging from indigenous healing to traditional therapeutic interventions. The event brought together crime survivors, particularly those from communities that have been most affected by crime and the criminal justice system.

CCJRC Volunteer Program

In 2018, CCJRC's Volunteer Program was the most robust that it's ever been. We had over 80 volunteers supporting our Voting with Conviction Campaign. Volunteers were instrumental in encouraging people to register to vote and vote through Voter Registration efforts targeting people who have criminal records, door-to-door canvassing and phone banking. Volunteers contributed to making 1,300 phone calls to CCJRC members with a low propensity to vote, and they knocked on 643 doors, targeting African Americans and people with criminal records. CCJRC is extremely excited by the ongoing relationships we were able to build with volunteers in 2018.

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 74%
 Donations- 16%
 Earned Income-9%
 Other-1%

Statement of Financial Position (As of 12/31/2018)

Current Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$1,172,745
Inventory	\$ -
Total Current Assets	\$1,172,745

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 **\$ 1,172,745**

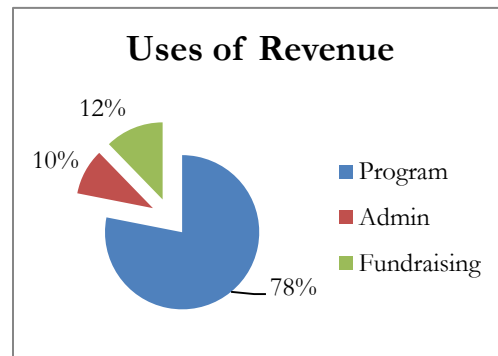
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current liabilities

Fiscal Agent	\$ -
Accounts payable	\$ 142
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 142

Total Unrestricted Net Assets **\$1,172,603**

Total Liabilities and Net Assets **\$1,172,745**



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

On Wednesday, September 26, 2018 we celebrated our tenth annual night of fun and fundraising – with an open bar, delicious food, and a magnificent silent auction. We honored House Representative Pete Lee as our 2018 Game Changer Award Recipient. We would like to thank our sponsors and the many volunteers without whom this night would not have been possible.

Pete Lee is the State Representative for Colorado House District 18. He has been a lawyer and a small business owner and has lived in Colorado Springs for 40 years. Pete is the Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and over the years he has sponsored, supported, and championed legislation to transform our criminal justice system from one of retribution to one of restoration and rehabilitation. Pete has dedicated his life to being an advocate for people whose struggles are often silenced and we were honored to award the Game Changer Award to State Representative Pete Lee.



Thank you CCJRC Members

Our members make CCJRC's mission possible and receive our quarterly newsletter, The Colorado Justice Report, action alerts, and announcements for community meetings and events.

Board Members

Hassan Latif – President

Executive Director of Second Chance Center

Lisa Raville - Vice President

Executive Director of Harm Reduction Action Center

Kathleen Lord – Treasurer

Kathleen Lord LLC, Attorney at Law

LeAnne Wheeler – Secretary

The Wheeler Advisory Group

Joe Mauro

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Hans Meyer

Meyer Law Office

Mandy Rigg

Mandy M. Rigg Consulting, Inc.

Rosalyn Wheeler-Bell

Colorado Coalition for the Homeless

Mardy Wilson

Diva Mardones

Colorado Joint Budget Committee

Kwame Holmes

Assistant Professor at the University of Colorado-Boulder

Staff Members

Jasmine Ross, Civic Engagement Assistant

Christie Donner, Executive Director

Juston Cooper, Deputy Director

Pam Clifton, Communications Coordinator

Terri Hurst, Policy Coordinator

Alex Landau, Community Outreach Coordinator