

# 2020

## CCJRC ANNUAL REPORT



Colorado Criminal Justice  
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## Our Mission

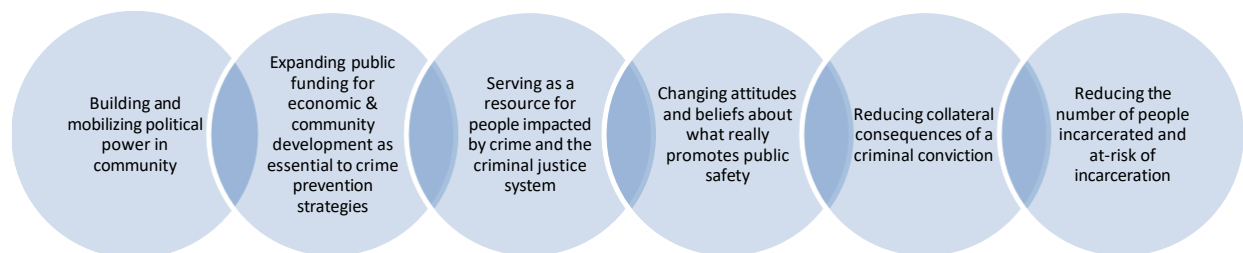
***The mission of the Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition is to eliminate the overuse of the criminal justice system and advance community health and safety.***

## About Us

Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition (CCJRC) is a 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. Many of our staff and Board of Directors have been directly impacted by crime and the criminal legal system, or both. This personal experience, coupled with our competency in advocacy, organizing, research, and community development enables us to be highly effective and impactful.

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 nearly 9,000 members statewide, many of whom have also been directly impacted including 700 members who are currently in prison. We respond to hundreds of 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.

## Framework for Change



## *Reviewing Our Success and Implementing Our Vision*

### **Underneath the Dome**

Our legislative advocacy continues to have a substantial impact on reducing the prison population.

In the [\*Adult Prison Population and Parole Caseload Projections\*](#) (December 2020) prepared for the General Assembly by Legislative Council, of the six bills identified as having impact on reducing the prison population (in addition to COVID), CCJRC authored five and co-authored the sixth. We were also lead or co-lead on the lobbying efforts in which all these bills received bi-partisan support and were signed into law. The Legislative Council analyst concluded that due to the legislative changes, the reduction in the prison population was “structural” and not just due to COVID. Consequently, the Legislature felt comfortable closing another 1,700 beds in DOC.

In 2020, CCJRC was also successful in reducing the crime level from a felony to a misdemeanor by creating a new crime of “unauthorized absence” for most people who walk away from a halfway house or tamper with an electronic monitoring device. If someone’s underlying conviction was for a nonviolent felony, an “unauthorized absence” is a class 3 misdemeanor. If the conviction was for a violent offense, then it’s a class 6 felony. It is no longer considered “escape” which is a class 3 or 4 felony.

In June 2020, CCJRC was appointed to the Sentencing Reform Task Force of the Colorado Commission on Criminal & Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) that will undertake a comprehensive review of sentencing laws.



### **Take Care Health Matters – *Increasing Access to Healthcare for Justice Involved People***

Our Take Care Health Matters campaign has focused for the last several years on ensuring that justice-involved people, particularly people leaving prison are enrolled in Medicaid. During the spring of 2020, CCJRC staff made a significant shift to directly working with the Department of Corrections in trying to get as many medically vulnerable people released from prison due to the emergence of COVID. We also had to push back on the Governor’s failure to include people in prison in jail as a priority population for vaccination, similar to others living in congregate settings, as recommended by the National Commission on Covid-19 and Criminal Justice and American Medical Association.

### **Know Your District Attorney (DA) – *Accountability Campaign***

In 2020, voters would be deciding who their District Attorney would be in all judicial districts across the state. Often, voters know very little about DA candidates and their positions on important public safety issues. CCJRC focused our voter education efforts on Judicial District 1 (Jefferson/Gilpin counties), Judicial District 17 (Adams/Broomfield), and Judicial District 18 (Arapahoe county only). We surveyed DA candidates and widely disseminated a Voter Guide to people in those three judicial districts.

Post-election, CCJRC developed and released our [\*“Equitable Prosecution Statement of Principles”\*](#), that was endorsed by over thirty community organizations and bar associations. The statement was designed to promote prosecutorial accountability, amplify critical issues, and demand that elected District Attorney’s implement policies that will improve equitable, just, and fair prosecution.

### **Civic Engagement – *Voting With Conviction Campaign***

Since 2007, CCJRC has run the only civic engagement campaign in Colorado that focuses specifically on

people with current or past involvement in the criminal justice system. Colorado does not have permanent disenfranchisement for people with criminal records. Unfortunately, most people don't know that, including elections officials.

In 2020, we continued with our partnership with the Denver Elections Division and Denver Sheriff's Department on jail-based voting. In addition to our ongoing voter education and registration at the jail and detention center prior to the election, on Election Day, eligible voters in jail could, for the first time, register and vote in person. 162 inmates were registered and a total of 104 voters for the in-person voting were accepted. We also assisted Denver on a "white paper" to help other county jails develop a jail-based voter program.

In 2019, CCJRC was part of a coalition that was successful in passing legislation that allowed people on parole to vote. In 2020, CCJRC was on the ground at parole offices and community-based reentry organizations and registered almost 300 people on parole before we had to stop due to COVID. COVID significantly impacted our ability to have robust voter registration and community engagement efforts, although we did do our best to pivot to on-line and other virtual strategies.

## Crime Survivors for Health Safety and Justice

Over the last couple of years, CCJRC has organized with crime survivors to understand their needs and experiences, and to counter the narrative that crime survivors universally support "get tough" approaches to crime and mass incarceration. We specifically focused on elevating the voices and experiences of both victims of color, youth and men, whose experiences are often marginalized or outright ignored. We released our findings in a report in 2018 entitled, [\*Victims Speak\*](#) which resulted in the passage of HB18-1409 that created the Community Crime Victims Services (CCVS) grant program to focus specifically on reaching underserved victims including men, people of color, and young adults.

Even in its first year, CCVS was substantially exceeding its target enrollment rate that validated the extent of the need. Unfortunately, in 2020, the funding for CCVS was cut as part of the larger COVID-related state budget cuts but we are optimistic that this funding will be restored next year. In 2020, CCJRC also began a new project to analyze the three state-managed grant funding programs for victim services in Colorado from an equity lens because the lack of equity is structural in nature.

## CCJRC's response to the pandemic

The pandemic turned the world upside down and CCJRC recognized internally and externally we had to step up our advocacy and support for justice-involved people on the inside and outside, as well as the community, to the best of our ability.

In response to COVID, CCJRC mobilized efforts to help our reentry direct service partners deploy mutual aid to clients in need. Our support included: distribution of food to our Harm Reduction Action Center for client support; coordination support with our WAGEE's reentry care managers for reentry clients and ongoing voter registration support despite the barriers of COVID. We also worked with community corrections facilities to help people to return home on furlough or get out on ISP-I to avoid communal contact with the virus. Additionally, we responded to thousands of calls, emails, and letters from people in prison and their loved ones who needed help or accurate information. Unfortunately, we were not able to host our annual fundraiser due to COVID restrictions.

## Youth Violence Interruption

The challenges of COVID and racial reckoning were not the only issue facing our state. The Denver metro area in 2020 saw a significant spike in youth violence, like many larger cities across the country. It deeply concerned us as an organization. As a distant observer watching community outcry at the loss of life of young people due to violence, we knew it was important to try and figure out why this was occurring.

In response, CCJRC in collaboration with the Latino Coalition for Community Leadership (LCCL) and Life-Line Colorado launched the "**Youth Violence Interruption and Healing Collaborative**", to coordinate efforts among several community direct service organizations specializing in youth violence interruption to enhance collective impact.

## Financial Overview

Through careful planning and stewardship of our funds, CCJRC is in a healthy financial position. CCJRC has developed multiple fundraising strategies 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. Each year, CCJRC contracts with an independent accountant to provide an Auditor's Report to the Board of Directors.

Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition  
Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets With Comparative Totals to 2019  
For the year ended December 31, 2020

	Without Donor Restriction	With Donor Restriction	Total	2019 Total
<b>Support and Revenue</b>				
Grants	\$348,000	\$607,000	\$955,000	\$1,177,700
Membership/Contributions	182,229	-	182,229	99,101
Book Sales	15,954	-	15,954	38,793
Fundraising	1,000	-	1,000	65,247
Interest	5,558	-	5,558	2,051
Miscellaneous	7,250	-	7,250	-
Net Assets Released from Restriction	683,443	(683,443)	-	-
<b>Total Support and Revenues</b>	<b>1,243,434</b>	<b>(76,443)</b>	<b>1,166,991</b>	<b>1,382,892</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Program Expenses	675,367	-	675,367	655,210
Administrative Expenses	62,055	-	62,055	72,799
Fund Raising Expenses	69,059	-	69,059	112,002
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>806,481</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>806,481</b>	<b>840,011</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>436,953</b>	<b>(76,443)</b>	<b>360,510</b>	<b>542,881</b>
<b>NET ASSETS, Beginning of Year</b>	<b>1,103,494</b>	<b>811,990</b>	<b>1,915,484</b>	<b>1,372,603</b>
<b>NET ASSETS, End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 1,540,447</b>	<b>\$ 735,547</b>	<b>\$ 2,275,994</b>	<b>\$ 1,915,484</b>

Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition  
Statement of Financial Position With Comparative Totals to 2019  
As of December 31, 2020

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$1,881,012	\$1,350,623
Grants Receivable	350,000	565,000
Due From Affiliate	45,099	-
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$2,276,111</b>	<b>1,915,623</b>
<b>Property and Equipment</b>		
Hardware and Equipment	4,760	4,760
Furniture and Fixtures	550	550
Software	330	330
	5,640	5,640
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(5,640)	(5,640)
<b>Total Property and Equipment</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$2,276,111</b>	<b>\$1,915,623</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	\$ 117	\$ 139
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>Net Assets - Without Donor Restriction</b>	<b>1,540,447</b>	<b>1,103,494</b>
<b>Net Assets - With Donor Restriction</b>	<b>735,547</b>	<b>811,990</b>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>2,275,994</b>	<b>1,915,484</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 2,276,111</b>	<b>\$ 1,915,623</b>

Source: 2020 CCJRC Independent Auditor's Report

## Staff and Board

### Staff

Christie Donner – Executive Director  
Juston Cooper – Deputy Director  
Pamela Clifton – Communication Coordinator  
Terri Hurst – Policy Coordinator  
Henry Price – Civic Engagement Assistant  
Jasmine Ross – Field Canvass Assistant

### Board of Directors

Lisa Raville – President  
Hassan Latif – Vice President  
Leanne Wheeler – Secretary  
Kathleen Lord – Treasurer  
Catherine Guerrero  
Diva Mardones  
Roz Wheeler-Bell

On behalf of the CCJRC family, we sincerely thank all those who stand beside us in the work and support us in many other ways in the fight to end mass incarceration and strengthen community-led approaches to health and safety.