



Ideas and Action

**FROM THE COMMUNITY,
FOR THE COMMUNITY**

2021 Annual Report

FY2021 STAFF LIST

Rev. Rachel Birkhahn-Rommelfanger, Advocacy Manager
Mari Castaldi, Director of Policy & Advocacy
Etta Davis, Operations Manager
LaVida Davis, Program Manager
Eric Halvorson, Policy & Communications Associate
Ashley Hamilton, Frontline Focus Program Manager
Nadia Hartvigsen, Policy Research Fellow
Edward (Eddie) Hernandez, Urban Alliance Intern
Cheryl Hester, Frontline Focus Administrator
Dana Horstein, Program Manager
Jamie Koenig, Policy Fellow
Angela Morrison, Policy Engagement Manager
Williette Nyanue, Marketing & Communication Manager
Raquel Pullums, Frontline Focus Training Institute Fellow
Tanvi Shah, Director of Frontline Focus
K. Sujata | Interim Executive Director
Carrie Thomas | Executive Director (through Jan 2021)
Megan Winzeler | Director of Administration

FY2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Anne Ladky, Executive Committee Member, The Chicago Community Trust



This year, Chicago Jobs Council (CJC) settled into its new normal. As the COVID-19 pandemic raged on, CJC took the lessons learned [in 2020](#) and embraced our remote work culture, conducting all of our trainings, cohorts, coalition meetings, and advocacy events 100% virtually. We saw growth in both our capacity building and advocacy efforts, as we continued to introduce platforms,

programs, and tools to further our mission of moving people out of poverty through employment.

The second half of the year began what would become a period of transition for CJC. CJC's longtime Executive Director, Carrie Thomas, transitioned from the organization and CJC's Board began its search for the organization's next Executive Director. During this time, CJC was guided by Interim Executive Director, K. Sujata, who ensured that the organization was able to continue its work during the transition.

In the midst of these changes, we celebrated our 40th Anniversary and Annual Meeting Celebration, which reminded us that our community is resilient, adaptable, and committed to moving the pivotal work forward. The celebration highlighted all of the people that have contributed to CJC's success over the years and showed that together we can continue to make a positive impact — no matter the challenge.

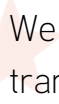


Capacity Building Updates



[In FY2021](#), we conducted 18 public trainings and 14 customized trainings on topics covering a variety of professional development content relevant to frontline staff. We filled 967 training seats and trained 777 unique professionals from 210 unique organizations. It was a groundbreaking year as we served almost 80% more frontline staff than we have in any previous year. We saw a surge of attendees in our public trainings and increased requests for customized training as most workforce staff were adapting their work to the virtual environment and needed to expand their skills accordingly.

Through our third Workforce Professionals Credential (WPC) cohort, we supported [14 workforce professionals](#) in a year-long intensive cohort that utilizes a first-of-its-kind competency model we designed to address all the values and competencies an effective workforce professional should possess. Our [Chicago College and Career Advising Credential \(CCCAC\)](#) cohort provided frontline professionals with opportunities to develop the knowledge, skills, and beliefs they need to help youth explore their passions and find pathway options that are right for them. This year, through three CCCAC cohorts, we trained 68 frontline professionals from the workforce development, education, and youth development fields.



We also published an introductory brief outlining our research and vision for transforming the workforce system to make it more human-centered and equitable. The [Career Readiness Framework \(CRF\)](#) is a groundbreaking approach to career readiness programming that aims to elevate the quality of career readiness programming across the field by creating a culture shift in workforce organizations that transforms how participants are served. The framework is grounded in behavioral science interventions, racial equity practices, trauma-informed approaches, and client-centered mindsets.

Policy Advocacy Updates

In FY2021, the Policy Team engaged more than 160 unique organizations through coalitions, convenings, and one-on-ones. One notable accomplishment was the building and expansion of a new advocacy platform and engagement tool, the Skills for Good Jobs Agenda table, which this year grew from 15 to 53 service providers, advocacy, and business/employer organizations.

This increased engagement and advocacy literally paid off for job seekers with barriers in Illinois: [\\$50 million dollars of American Rescue Plan funds were allocated to re-authorize the Job Training & Economic Development \(JTED\) Program](#), including specifically naming Barrier Reduction Funding and allowing subsidized wages, both of which specifically support people with systemic barriers to employment.

We also successfully advocated for the establishment of two additional Barrier Reduction resources: \$2 million Barrier Reduction Fund administered by Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) and connected to SNAP E&T and up to \$21 million per year for a Barrier Reduction Program as part of the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA).

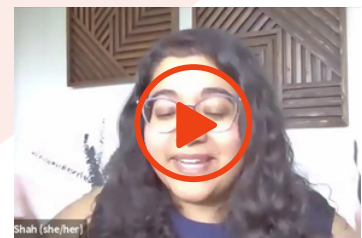
The [Transit Table coalition](#), led by CJC, also secured state legislative change in the form of the [SAFE-T Act](#) to end driver's license suspension as a result of unpaid automated camera ticket fines and traffic ticket fines, building on last year's successful passage and implementation of the [License to Work Act](#) (which reinstated driver's licenses for unpaid parking tickets). If properly implemented, this change will lead to as many as 500,000 Illinoisans having license suspensions/holds lifted this year. To ensure effective and equitable implementation of the reform, we worked with the Secretary of State and grassroots community partners to successfully push for automatic license reinstatement at no cost to the driver. We worked with Transit Table grassroots partners to distribute around 15,000 informational palm cards to ensure that the word gets out in the neighborhoods most impacted by these suspensions.

Celebrating 40 Years of Chicago Jobs Council

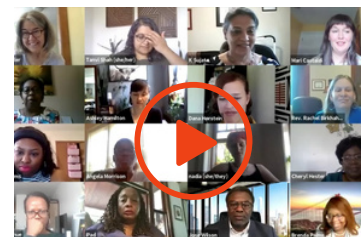
Staff began the year with a big task: Plan an Annual Meeting to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of CJC's founding -- completely virtually. In addition to planning program components and working with our community to incorporate special presentations, we set our sites on a goal to raise \$40K in honor of our 40th anniversary. Thanks to contributions from generous donors and sponsors throughout the course of the year, we were able to reach that goal.

The culminating event of our 40th anniversary year was our [40th Annual Meeting Celebration, "Ideas and Action from the Community, for the Community,"](#) which was held virtually on June 11, 2021. During the event, we welcomed more than 100 members of our community to reflect on the people and the moments that have been pivotal in shaping CJC over the past 40 years, while also envisioning what the future of workforce development could look like.

In addition to awarding our Betty J. Willhoite Award to New Moms and our Field Builder Award to North Lawndale Employment Network (NLEN), the event also featured guest remarks from Gov. Pritzker, musical and artistic performances by Pam R. Johnson Davis, and a special 40th anniversary video presentation, [CJC Through the Decades](#). We also hosted a panel discussion about "A Just Future of Work and the Role of Anti-Racist Workforce Development," with distinguished panelists, Amanda Cage (National Fund for Workforce Solutions); Evelyn Diaz (Heartland Alliance); and Cherita Ellens (Women Employed).



Betty J. Willhoite Award



Field Builder Award

We'd like to thank our awardees, panelists, donors, sponsors and the more than 100 registered attendees for making our 40th Anniversary such a memorable event. We cannot wait to see what the next 40 years will have in store.

FISCAL YEAR 2021 FINANCIALS

Chicago Jobs Council Statement of Financial Position

Period ending June 30, 2021

ASSETS

Current Assets:

Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,011,756
Contributions receivable	\$348,750
Other receivables	\$6,460
Prepaid expenses	\$9,517
Certificate of deposit	\$52,374
Total Current Assets	\$1,428,857

Property and equipment	\$5,208
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TOTAL ASSETS **\$1,434,065**

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities:

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$19,400
Accrued payroll and related expenses	\$26,679
Loans payable	\$8,080
Total Current Liabilities	\$54,159

Net Assets:

Without donor restrictions	\$643,001
With donor restrictions – purpose restricted	\$736,905
Total Net Assets	\$1,379,906

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS **\$1,434,065**

FY2020 FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND DONORS

CORPORATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS

BMO Harris Bank
The Crown Family
Chicagoland Workforce Funder Alliance
Energy Foundation
Grand Victoria Foundation
Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
Polk Bros. Foundation
Robert R. McCormick Foundation
The Chicago Community Trust
William G. McGowan Charitable Fund
Winzeler Gear
Anonymous

SPECIAL INITIATIVES

Economic Security for Illinois
Illinois Environmental Council Education Fund
National Center on Employment & Homelessness
National Skills Coalition SkillSPAN
Pro Path Fund

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

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Marty Miles
Mary Kay Devine
Mary Morten
Mollie Dowling
Rebecca Estrada
Ruchi Sharma
Whitney Smith

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ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS

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American Christian Foundation
Associated Builders & Contractors, Inc.
Breakthrough Urban Ministries
Calumet Area Industrial Commission
Cara
Career Transitions Center of Chicago
Central States SER
Chicago Botanic Garden
Chicago Department of Family and Support Services
Chicago Federation of Labor Workers Assistance Committee
Chicagoland Workforce Funder Alliance
Chinese American Service `League
City of Chicago
City of Evanston Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services
Community Assistance Programs
Dynamic Educational Systems, Inc.
Easter Seals Inc
Employment and Employer Services
Fathers, Families In Transition
Greater Chicago Food Depository
Greater West Town Training Partnership
Growing Home, Inc.
Hire360
Housing Opportunities for Women
Illinois Youth Build Coalition
Inspiration Corporation
Instituto Del Progreso Latino
Jane Addams Resource Corporation
KRA-Westside American Job Center
McDermott dba Haymarket Center
Moraine Valley Community College
National Able Network, Inc.
North Lawndale Employment Network
Northwest Side Housing Center
OAI, Inc.
Of Color Inc.
Per Scholas
PODER
Pui Tak Center
Revolution Workshop
Safer Foundation
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
scaleLIT
SGA Youth and Family Services
St. Joseph Services - Humboldt Park
St. Leonard's Ministries
The Workforce Connection-Goodwill
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago
University of Illinois at Chicago, Center for Literacy MC147
Upwardly Global
WRD Environmental, Inc.
Youth Guidance
Youth Job Center
YWCA Evanston/North Shore
YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Paul Lewis
Ivette Sosias

Gloria D. Mhoon
Melissa Frazin