

Impact Report 2021



CPD
ACTION

THE
CENTER
FOR
**POPULAR
DEMOCRACY**

CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

In 2021, CPD/A committed to transitioning the organization to new leadership in a period of strength and financial stability—and welcomed two new co-executive directors, Analilia Mejia and DaMareo Cooper, into their roles in November. We're thrilled to introduce our new leaders:



Analilia Mejia is a grassroots organizer focused on building political power and increasing the civic engagement of Black, Latiné and working families. Analilia previously served as the Deputy Director of the Women's Bureau at the Department of Labor under the Biden Administration and was the National Political Director for Bernie Sanders' 2020 presidential campaign.



DaMareo Cooper is a longtime grassroots organizer who previously served as Director of Place-Based Power at CPD. DaMareo has been on the frontlines of many fights for justice for over 15 years, from housing to healthcare and criminal justice reform to economic opportunity access.

With Analilia and DaMareo at the helm, our future is bright. Individually and together, they embody our communities' resilience, urgent optimism, and power. We are grateful for the opportunity to welcome two impactful leaders we admire, trust, and believe in deeply. Moreover, we are confident that under their leadership, CPD/A and this network will continue to grow, win, and help lead a movement that transforms this country!

LETTER FROM THE CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Dear Movement Community,

2021 was a momentous year for the Center for Popular Democracy and CPD Action (CPD/A). We stepped into our roles as the leaders of the nation's largest multiracial organizing network at a moment of upheaval: our communities continuing to bear the brunt of sustained attacks on democracy, increasing global conflict, an ever-worsening climate crisis, and the failure of world leaders to adequately address the COVID-19 pandemic. All of us, to various degrees, have been impacted by the seismic cultural impact of Trumpism and the continued gridlock at the Federal level, which has prevented the realization of comprehensive material relief and policy changes our communities demand and deserve.

The CPD/A federated network was formalized in a moment of similar upheaval after the 2016 election foreshadowed the incredibly difficult years to come. The Black and Brown communities at the center of our base would come under direct attack. Our predecessors—Ana María Archila, Jennifer Epps-Addison, Brian Kettenring, and Andrew Friedman—deftly steered us through some of the most challenging fights of our time. 2021 began with a horrific reminder that though we had defeated Donald Trump at the polls, the influence of his racist, sexist, xenophobic beliefs and policies was not going anywhere—and our network had our work cut out for us.

It became imperative that the CPD/A network move to create opportunities for transformational change wherever we could—and with this mandate, the opportunity for a leadership transition materialized. We—Analilia and DaMareo—felt called to become deeper in community with CPD/A.

We knew it would be a significant transition for us as individuals, an organization, and a network. Nevertheless, we were awed by the continued strength and grace that our national staff and affiliate network brought to this transitional moment. Our network is full of leaders dedicated to our collective pursuit of a more just world who were able to maintain our power and level of impact in this critical moment for our democracy—and they are the keys to our success as a movement. We also know we have you, our supporters and partners, to thank for your steadfast solidarity in our first year as co-executive directors.

Our mission as leaders is to center the lives and experiences of our people and build their power.

We are organizers, strategists, and community leaders, but we also grew up experiencing the inequities too many people face across this country every day. **For us, this is personal—and everything is at stake.**

We have children who deserve to grow up in a world free from police brutality and systemic racism, where they can live full, productive lives on a healthy planet doing fulfilling work.

To this end, we are proud to present CPD/A's impact in 2021: We fought to win a just economic recovery and real relief for vulnerable communities, advance policies on the issues that matter most to our people, and hold the new administration accountable to its promises—like delivering material relief, creating a pathway to citizenship for immigrants, protecting and expanding voting rights, and increasing access to affordable healthcare. We remained focused on deep organizing and base-building on the ground, preparing our base to generate record voter turnout to hold our power in 2022.



As we celebrate our tenth anniversary, we dedicate ourselves to coalescing the network around what it takes for our communities to hold our power and continue the fight for the integrity of our democracy and its institutions. Right now, there are hundreds of thousands of activists and organizers across the country, working alongside local grassroots leaders in CPD/A affiliates to build power together to achieve this vision. Investing in and expanding our base is our central strategy to transform politics and expand what is possible. Everyday people can transform the way politics and policy happen if we build power and compel politicians to address our issues—and winning or losing hinges on one thing: inspiring and mobilizing our base.

Thank you for your commitment to supporting the long-term power-and base-building work of the CPD/A network. Our strong community of partners, supporters, and movement co-conspirators has made all the difference in our first year as leaders of the CDP/A Network. We couldn't do it without you.

In solidarity,
Analilia and DaMareo

CELEBRATING OUR OUTGOING LEADERS

In 2021, CPD/A celebrated the transitions of former co-executive directors—**Ana María Archila, Jennifer Epps-Addison, Brian Kettenring, and Andrew Friedman**—to new and exciting roles in the movement.



We want to express our deepest gratitude to the leaders who guided us in our work over the past decade to win hundreds of campaigns and policy victories, impacting tens of millions of people across the country.

“ Ana María, Andrew, Brian and Jen have built a model for the next generation of progressive leaders who will follow in their footsteps. Their understanding that progressive movements must be built through collaboration and the sharing of leadership is a model for how we can build lasting people power that will continue to evolve and grow.”

—**Javier Valdés**, Former CPD Board Chair Director, Civic Engagement and Government, Ford Foundation



“ We have built CPD/A with our eyes set on the promise of a dynamic, participatory, multiracial democracy to create the country of our dreams. When the four of us came together to lead CPD/A, we anchored our efforts in a shared commitment to nurturing leaders and organizations deeply rooted in communities. For each one of us, the experience of organizing on the ground had taught us everything we knew about building and community, with love at the center. We wanted CPD/A to serve as a national formation to advance an agenda of justice for Black, Latinx and other people of color, immigrant communities and working-class families in the US...”

Leading together as a team has been a gift, and passing the baton together in a moment of organizational strength is the best way we know to support the new leaders, the organization and the network to move forcefully into the future.

We thank everyone who has worked with us—the staff, the Boards of Directors, every affiliate organization that joined and breathed life into this network, and every donor who invested in our efforts. CPD/A would not be as strong without you.”

—**Ana María, Andrew, Brian and Jen**
Former CPD/A Co-Executive Directors



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The Center for Popular Democracy is working to build a world in which all of us are free to thrive together...

where **people have the power and ability to control the determinants of our own existence,** and where we recognize that **true freedom depends on deep interconnection and interdependence.**

Our vision is one **anchored in love and deep respect** for the inherent capacity and creativity of all of us.

It is a vision that sees **popular democracy**—imaginative, informed, sustained participation by everyone—in the economy, our government, our communities, and the exercise of our fundamental human rights as **the vehicle for our collective liberation and the expression of our shared priorities.**

Winning our vision requires fundamental change, including ending the structures of domination that undermine our vision of popular, full democratic participation.



Our North Star

CPD/A's Strategic Vision

Winning our vision requires us to share what we, the CPD/A network, believe is true:

- **We believe in abundance**—that collectively we already have enough to ensure we all thrive. It is a matter of who has access to what, how decisions are made, and rejecting a culture of over-consumption and waste. The forces opposed to our vision perpetuate a false sense of scarcity, competition, and a zero-sum game.
- **We believe the economy is within our hands, not an invisible hand**, and we can run it to serve the needs of all of us and our planet. We believe in fundamental human rights and that social goods—like healthcare, healthy ecosystems, and human happiness—should be collective commitments, not commodities.
- **We believe in civil society and the government as expressions of our collective vision**—a potential force to repair the enduring impacts of inequality and support our liberation.
- **We believe in power from the bottom up**, radical inclusion, and that equity demands reparations to correct for centuries of domination and exclusion.
- **We believe in the inherent dignity, equality, and interdependence** of every individual to further our collective liberation.
- **We believe in a permanent participatory, active democracy** that provides us collective power and the capacity to shape the conditions that affect our communities, families, and the common good.
- **We believe that the freedom to thrive for all of us is the key to our collective liberation.**



Harnessing the Turning Tides

Federal Advocacy in the Biden
Administration



**In 2021, CPD
harnessed the
opportunity to
fight—and win—for
our communities at
the federal level after
years of defensive
organizing.**

As the new administration took office, CPD rallied with our movement allies to hold Biden accountable to the communities of color across the country who elected him. We delivered clear mandates from our people:

- take action to turn the tide of COVID-19,
- lead us out of this economic crisis to an economy that works for all,
- take bold steps towards advancing racial justice,
- implement humane immigration policies,
- transform our justice system,
- make up for lost ground in fighting climate change, and
- ensure quality healthcare for all.

sixteen

affiliates joined our Federal Power Committee



50,000

people signed petitions
or made calls

7,500

joined phone banks
and meetings



22,000+

attended in-person actions



We organized

13

national
days of
action



500

unique media hits
(42 in Spanish)

With our affiliates, almost

1,000

actions in their states
focused on federal issues

2M

people reached
on social media

7.5M
impressions

100K
engagements



We doubled down on expanding our network's capacity for federal advocacy and, together, won massive investments in our communities:

American Rescue Plan Act

○ **\$7.6B**

for health worker jobs

○ **\$30M**

for dedicated harm reduction funding—the first time the federal government has ever dedicated a funding stream for harm reduction

○ **\$2B**

for improving unemployment insurance claims infrastructure

○ **\$22B**

to assist households unable to pay rent and utilities

○ **\$100M**

for BIPOC-owned small businesses

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

○ **\$55B**

to provide safe drinking water to millions of children at home and at school

○ **\$90B**

to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve mobility for millions of US workers through a historic investment in public transit

○ **\$65B**

to update the nation's power grid, facilitating the expansion of a sustainable energy industry based on renewables

While ultimately the bill did not come to fruition, we are proud to have helped pass the \$1.75T Build Back Better package in the House—which brought us a step closer to making historic investments in climate action, home and community-based care services, child care and paid leave, immigration, and much more.

In 2022, we are fighting to ensure these wins are implemented for the benefit of our communities. We will continue to organize for bold policies via executive action, legislation, and budget reconciliation that address climate, healthcare, immigration, jobs, fair taxes, and judicial reform—to cultivate a genuinely inclusive, multi-racial democracy that meets people’s needs.

Collectively, we were instrumental in securing numerous wins in the House version of the Build Back Better Act:

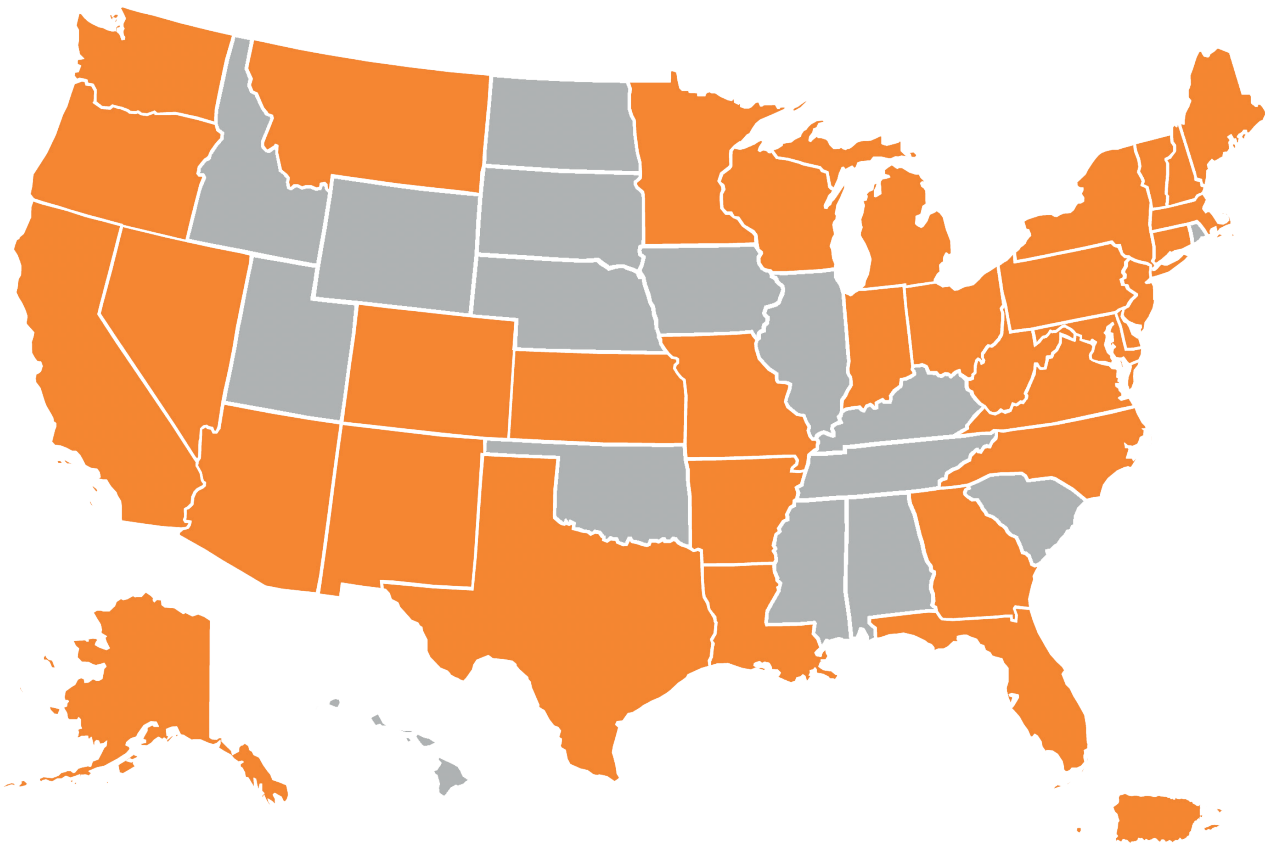
- **\$555B**
in tax incentives to promote renewable energy sources and cut emissions
- Expansion of Medicare to cover hearing
- A plan to allow Medicare Part D to negotiate prescription drug prices
- Support to expand Medicaid
- **\$150B**
to build one million affordable housing units
- **\$65M**
to address the public housing backlog



Our Affiliates

“ Being part of CPD elevates our education and economic justice work through staff training, nationally coordinated campaign work, coaching, and resources.”

—**Maria Harmon**, Executive Director, Step Up Louisiana



ALASKA

Alaska Grassroots Alliance /
StandUp Alaska

ARKANSAS

Arkansas Community
Organization

ARIZONA

Living United for Change in
Arizona

CALIFORNIA

ACCE Institute (Alliance of
Californians for Community
Empowerment)
Center on Policy Initiatives
Organization United for Respect

COLORADO

United for a New Economy
(UNE)

CONNECTICUT

Make the Road Connecticut

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

SPACEs

DELAWARE

Delaware Alliance for Community
Advancement

FLORIDA

Florida Rising

GEORGIA

CASA
New Georgia Project

INDIANA

Hoosier Action

KANSAS

Sunflower Community Action

LOUISIANA

Step Up Louisiana

MASSACHUSETTS

Community Labor United

MARYLAND

CASA
Maryland Communities United

MAINE

Maine People's Alliance



From operations to organizing, being part of the CPD/A network is a value add for both our c3 and c4 organizations, and we look forward to continuing to build progressive power for the next election and beyond.”

—Erin Jackson-Hill, Executive Director,
Stand Up Alaska

MICHIGAN

Detroit Action
Flint Rising

MINNESOTA

Comunidades Organizando El
Poder Y La Acción Latina-
COPAL Education Fund
TakeAction Minnesota

MISSOURI

Communities Creating
Opportunity

MONTANA

The Montana Human Rights
Network (MHRN)

NORTH CAROLINA

Action NC

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Rights & Democracy

NEW JERSEY

Make the Road New Jersey

NEW MEXICO

Organizers in the Land of
Enchantment

NEVADA

Make the Road Nevada

NEW YORK

Churches United for Fair Housing
(CUFFH)

NEW YORK

Make the Road New York
New York Communities for
Change
VOCAL-NY

OHIO

Ohio Organizing Collaborative

OREGON

Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del
Noroeste

PENNSYLVANIA

215 People's Alliance
CASA
Center for Coalfield Justice
Make the Road Pennsylvania
One Pennsylvania

PUERTO RICO

Taller Salud

TEXAS

Texas Organizing Project
Workers Defense Project

VIRGINIA

CASA
New Virginia Majority

VERMONT

Rights & Democracy

WASHINGTON

Working Washington

WISCONSIN

Black Leaders Organizing for
Communities
Leaders Igniting Transformation
(LIT)

WEST VIRGINIA

Our Future West Virginia

2021: Year in Review

January

The CPD Network released The People's Transition Memo before Biden's inauguration—demanding the president fight for fundamental policy changes to uplift and empower BIPOC communities and hold all elected officials accountable for a fair and equitable government.

“Biden was elected with a mandate: for access to healthcare, for humane immigration policies, for transformation of our justice system, for meaningful change. To overcome the harms of the past four years, we need transformative policies that address our systemic inequities, create opportunities for all people and keep us healthy and safe.”

March 11th

A year after the pandemic began, the CPD Network rallied outside the Pfizer building in New York City to demand they stop hoarding its vaccine technology from the rest of the world. We also called on President Biden to take action to lift patents and develop equitable access to vaccines for a legitimately global response to COVID.



May



Our housing campaign launched Renters Rising—a national alliance of renters working to shift the balance of power between renters and corporate landlords to guarantee that renters can live with dignity. The alliance now has a base of 790 leaders across the country.

July 23rd

In partnership with our affiliates Make the Road New York, New York Communities for Change, and Churches United for Fair Housing, CPD shut down the Manhattan Bridge with mixed-immigration-status community members to demand a pathway to citizenship for immigrants be included in Congress's budget reconciliation.



Natalia Aristizabal @NatyAristiBeta

Essential workers took care of everyone during the pandemic. It's time for Congress to take care of them via the reconciliation process. Immigrants are essential #citizenship4all #freedomtogether



June 24th

Members of CPD's campaign Unemployed Action visited Washington, D.C., to demand that Congress expand and transform unemployment insurance. Over 200 media outlets covered the rally; parallel actions in Austin, Los Angeles, and New Orleans garnered attention from elected officials and local media. Over 70 news outlets featured the campaign, including The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, USA Today, The Guardian, NPR, Reuters, Vox, Newsweek, Bloomberg, and Associated Press.

September 21st

For a week, the CPD Network held daily actions in Washington, D.C., bringing a fleet of kayaks to Senator Joe Manchin's yacht, where directly impacted people—including his constituents from West Virginia—demanded action on the Build Back Better Act, including lowering prescription drug prices and expanding Medicare. As a result, Manchin spoke with our activists and scheduled an in-person meeting with them. These actions were covered by CNN, MSNBC, John Oliver, Rachel Maddow, Trevor Noah, Seth Meyers, and more.



December 1st



On December 1, CPDA protested outside of the Supreme Court building during the Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization oral arguments, fighting to protect reproductive rights for everyone—with 150 protestors in attendance and with 9,000 livestream views.

Impact



CPD/A aims to win victories that advance justice and challenge structural racism, economic inequality, and corporate power through issue campaigns to change federal, state, and municipal policy and build our base.

In 2021, CPD/A worked with our 48 affiliates and other partners to win over 40 policy victories impacting tens of millions of people.

Our victories include:

Housing

Nearly 15 groundbreaking housing wins in eight states, including eviction defense and emergency rental assistance covering millions of renters at risk of eviction during the COVID-19 pandemic. Highlights included:

- CPD affiliate CASA secured \$29M in back-dated rental assistance in Prince George’s County, Maryland after leading a rent strike for months with their members.
- Affiliate One Pennsylvania successfully advocated for Philadelphia to pass \$3M for eviction prevention and passed the Renters Access Act, which prohibits landlords from discriminating against tenants because of credit scores and previous evictions on their records.
- In New York, CPD affiliates Make the Road New York, VOCAL-NY, and Churches United for Fair Housing successfully fought for \$2.4B in back rent assistance to be distributed, regardless of immigration status—coupled with a rent freeze and no late fees impacting an estimated 1.2M people.
- In California, CPD affiliate ACCE helped cancel rent debt for almost all tenants through federal fund relief and won an extension of the eviction moratorium through September 30, 2021.

CPD’s Housing team helped win and extend the Federal Eviction Moratorium that protected the estimated 15 million people behind on rent and at risk of eviction through August 2021.



Immigrant Rights

- New York Communities for Change, VOCAL, Churches United for Fair Housing, and Make the Road New York were instrumental in securing \$2.1B in funding for an excluded worker fund, resulting in state-issued survival checks of up to \$15,600 to 130,000 primarily undocumented workers who were excluded from initial COVID relief funding.
- Make the Road NJ also won a \$40M fund for undocumented immigrants and other workers excluded from economic aid during the pandemic, providing critical support to 20,000–30,000 New Jersey residents and their families.
- Make the Road Nevada successfully secured over \$2M in total funding over two years, at both the state and county level, for free legal support to people in deportation proceedings—potentially impacting over 160,000 undocumented people in the state.
- With our affiliates (CASA, Make the Roads NY, CT, PA, NJ, and LUCHA) and allies, we were able to secure the introduction of historic legislation that would provide for the legalization of millions of undocumented people in the US, as well as measures in Build Back Better that would have extended work visas to millions.



Wall Street Accountability and Tax Reform

- Advocates in New York, including CPD affiliates Make the Road New York, New York Communities for Change, VOCAL NY, and Churches United for Fair Housing, won a millionaire tax that raises income taxes on people earning more than \$1M (\$2M for joint filers). The reforms also adjusted tax brackets for people earning over \$5 and \$25M per year and increased taxes on the biggest corporations. It's set to generate an extra \$4.3B a year in progressive revenue which will enable more robust investments in local communities.
- Make the Road Nevada helped win a tax on the mining industry which will double the taxes imposed on silver and gold mines and generate more than \$20M annually.
- Working Washington helped win a new capital gains tax that ensures when wealthy individuals sell stocks, real estate or other investments, their profits are taxed like income. It's slated to generate an estimated \$500–550M in new revenues each year.



Puerto Rico

CPD's Puerto Rico Campaign (with Make the Roads, Action North Carolina, Churches United for Fair Housing, and New York Communities for Change) supported the adoption of The Dignified Retirement Act (Ley para un Retiro Digno), which was signed into law in Puerto Rico to protect pensions and essential services from cuts and prevent the payment of illegal debt to hedge funds. These efforts also led to an agreement of zero cuts to pensions as part of the Puerto Rico debt restructuring plan. An estimated 165,000 pensioners in Puerto Rico will be protected by the law.



Healthcare

- In November, New York City opened the first two legally sanctioned overdose prevention centers in the country. In the first six months of operation, over 1,000 people have visited the sites, and over 250 lives have been saved through overdose reversals. After years of organizing from CPD affiliate VOCAL-NY and local allies, the city authorized the sites. They prove that harm reduction works and provide a model for similar sites throughout New York and in other states.
- After years of organizing actions at art museums—with Nan Goldin's Sackler P.A.I.N.—to expose the crimes of the Sackler family, who fueled and then profited off of the overdose epidemic, we achieved an important victory. The Metropolitan Museum of Art announced in December 2021 that it would be removing the Sackler name from its spaces. Other museums have followed suit, most recently the Guggenheim. These actions have helped change the public narrative around companies profiting from mass death.





Worker's Rights & Economic Justice

- Our Unemployed Action campaign helped pass pandemic unemployment insurance relief for 19M workers and extend the \$300/week FPUC benefit and eligibility-expanding PUA benefit until September 6, 2021 (as part of the American Rescue Plan). The campaign also secured \$2B from the American Rescue Plan to support states' efforts to improve Unemployment Systems, including \$260M in grants to promote more equitable access to unemployment insurance benefits. This victory happened with the support of CPD affiliates Step Up Louisiana, New Georgia Project, Make the Road Nevada, OnePA, Working Washington, Detroit Action, and SPACES – among others.
- CPD affiliate Step Up Louisiana won an increased \$15/hour minimum wage for city employees and contractors and an increase in the state's maximum weekly unemployment benefit, one of the lowest in the nation.



Education & Justice Transformation

- CPD affiliates Make the Road NY and the Urban Youth Collaborative secured \$85M in NY for social, emotional, and mental health staff supports in school. In 2021, they successfully inhibited a local law which would have codified the functional transfer of school cops to the Department of Education.
- In Oregon, CPD affiliate LUS successfully pushed the Salem School board against renewing School Resource Officer contracts between the school district and the Salem and Keizer Police Departments as well as the Marion County Sheriff's Office. This action effectively removed all SROs from schools, impacting over 22,000 middle and high school students. The School Board also passed an anti-racist resolution and LUS' GOTV efforts led to record turnout in their school board elections.





Climate Justice

- CPD affiliate Make the Road New Jersey successfully passed a comprehensive clean trucks policy that will require between 40-75% new zero-emission truck sales by 2035—slashing dirty diesel emissions in the state while benefiting the Black and Brown communities most negatively impacted by that pollution.
- Federally, CPD’s Climate Justice team contributed to the Green New Deal Coalition to advance our climate priorities. While the fight continues, this coalition helped create the urgency needed to pass robust climate policies in the coming years.



Fed Up

Fed Up fought for the resignation of presidents of the regional Federal Reserve banks of Boston and Dallas, in the wake of the public revelation that they had been actively trading corporate stock. Their ouster was a massive strategic victory, removing two conservative, anti-worker members of the Fed policy committee.





WELCOME BACK
CONGRESS

MARCHA POR LA CIUDADANÍA, EL MEDIO AMBIENTE Y EL CIUDADO

ALABAMA

WELCOME BACK
CONGRESS

MARCHA POR LA CIUDADANÍA, EL MEDIO AMBIENTE Y EL CIUDADO

WELCOME BACK
CONGRESS

MARCHA POR LA CIUDADANÍA, EL MEDIO AMBIENTE Y EL CIUDADO

PENNSYLVANIA

UNIDOSIMN
COMMUNITY • LEADERSHIP • POWER

WELCOME BACK
CONGRESS

MARCH FOR CITIZENSHIP, CLIMATE & CARE
September 21st, 2021



WE GET
MOVING

Towards Our Vision

Building Our Base



CPD/A aims to build a sustainable and growing base of one million politically aligned individuals, 50,000 grassroots organizers, and 1,000 movement leaders by the end of 2024. We seek to contribute to building a deep, long-lasting, and resilient movement by prioritizing authentic and durable relationships, with an emphasis on supporting leaders of color and movement actors that share our commitment to racial justice.

Since 2012, CPD has grown into one of the largest networks of people’s organizations—with nearly 50 affiliates rooted in immigrant, Black, Brown, and working-class communities in 34 states and Puerto Rico. Every day, the members of this network are courageously fighting to protect and stand up for one another and demand a country where poor and working-class people, immigrants, people of color, LGBTQI folks, disabled folks, and all of our families can thrive. We’ve taken this fight everywhere — into the streets to elevators of the U.S. capitol to the doorsteps of tyrants.

The certainty that a more just nation is struggling to be born propels us to take action; its arrival becomes possible when the people silenced and relegated to the margins of our democracy build power together and dismantle the structures of exclusion and exploitation from below.

At every step and with every battle, we are reminded that a popular and multiracial democracy does not exist on its own: Democracy breathes and comes alive when people tell their stories, take direct action, build community and networks of mutual support, register to vote, mobilize their loved ones to the polls, and ensure every vote counts.

We see building power through a robust, multiracial, and politically-aligned base as the core strategy around which all our work centers.

In 2021, we:

- developed foundational agreements—securing the commitment of more than half of affiliates—to build a shared base.
- launched key components for our organizing infrastructure: national canvasses to provide scaled outreach and engagement, virtual shared workspaces to push rigorous organizing, and shared data infrastructure.
- hosted 120 training events with over 1,417 attendees in 2021.
- trained over 430 new leaders as a part of our work to build a long-term pipeline of movement leaders with our Field Organizers, Lead Organizers, and New Leader training modules; over 150 organizers from 24 affiliates participated in our permanent capacity building program.
- nurtured a generative community of action through our Facilitated Learning Communities for affiliates, with 21 training events for operations/fundraising staff and 10 for organizing directors.

Looking Ahead: 2022

In 2022, we must hold our power.

This year, we are leveraging a decade of deep organizing and power-building by delivering a record-breaking turnout of BIPOC, youth, and first-time voters to the polls. We will overcome attempts to silence our communities and make our voices heard so that our priority issues remain at the top of the political agenda.

In addition to building our civic power in 2022, we will:

- fight to protect voting rights
- amend or eliminate the filibuster
- build the power of organized tenants
- win a pathway to citizenship for immigrants
- expand the Supreme Court
- get police out of schools
- secure fair wages
- reform unemployment insurance
- win just solutions to the climate crisis



CPD is uniquely positioned to connect and engage communities that are critical in every fight that matters at this moment. Our network is accountable to our affiliates and seeks to increase their capacity and harness the power of the collective. We recognize that people do not lead single-issue lives and seek to build power with multiple on-ramps through relevant and timely mass education, deep organizing, and campaigns around the issues that matter most for our communities.

In this historical moment when we are fighting to protect the potential and promise of our democracy, our network's theory and practice of popular democracy have never been more important.

Publications

February 2021

ESSENTIAL AND EXCLUDED

Center for Popular Democracy (CPD) affiliates in six states conducted Community Impact Surveys between April and November 2020. Organizers in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Nevada, and North Carolina had in-depth conversations with over 900 primarily Latino immigrant-including nearly 400 undocumented community members. While capturing different moments of the pandemic, important issues facing immigrant communities were surfaced across the surveys.

Immigrant and undocumented families are among those most impacted by the pandemic but they have been excluded from the federal and state relief they urgently need.

Due to long-standing systemic inequalities, Latinx and Black communities are hardest hit by the pandemic, contracting and dying from COVID-19 at alarming rates.

Latinx and Black communities are bearing the brunt of this crisis because of repeated and historic acts of racism in our economy, healthcare system, and housing generally.

86% of all people surveyed said public health emergency aid was needed in their area.

73% of undocumented people have experienced unemployment at some point in 2020.

88% of undocumented people and **59%** of all people surveyed did not have health insurance.

44% of people were 10 or more days behind on rent in 2020.

37% of people were 30 or more days behind on rent in 2020.

Policy solution: Ensure everyone, regardless of immigration status, receives quality healthcare, including COVID-19 testing, treatment, and vaccination.

1 in 6 people had a health emergency in 2020. This was 2.1x more than in 2019.

Policy solution: Ensure that federal stimulus payments and unemployment insurance are made available to all families and impacted workers, regardless of immigration status.

April 2021

Arrested Learning

A survey of youth experiences of police and security at school

June 2021

Reforming unemployment insurance

Stabilizing a system in crisis and laying the foundation for equity

SEPTEMBER 2021

PROMESA HAS FAILED: HOW A COLONIAL BOARD IS ENRICHING WALL STREET AND HURTING PUERTO RICANS

DECEMBER 2021 | HEDGE PAPERS No. 75

HOW NEW YORK CAN STOP VULTURE FUNDS FROM PREYING ON COUNTRIES

PAIN AND PROFIT IN SOVEREIGN DEBT:

January 2021

Housing: Central to COVID-19 Relief and Recovery

Housing is not only a basic need and human right. In the midst of an unprecedented pandemic, it is also a significant form of **healthcare**. Keeping everyone housed is critical for public health and recovery.

You with the COVID-19 pandemic and widespread unemployment, as many as **10 million people** nationwide face eviction due to inability to pay rent. Millions more are likely **close to homelessness** due to **losing their jobs and evictions** to make rent. At the same time, in recent decades **Wall Street speculators and corporate landlords** have picked up housing costs, subjecting residents to rent gouging, instability, and unsafe conditions, while pocketing runaway profits. The biggest corporate landlords are not only thriving, but **reaped at least \$100 billion** in recent tax breaks and giveaways, including over \$170 billion through the CARES Act.¹

We urgently need a more just and sustainable housing system, starting with federal action to make housing policy central to any COVID-19 relief package.

We demand the federal government:

- Immediately institute a comprehensive national eviction moratorium that bars all evictions and foreclosures, except for health and safety reasons, through the end of 2021 and until the end of the pandemic emergency. Halt evictions at every step, and ensure adequate enforcement.
- Immediately expanding the current CDC eviction moratorium, with the **following** amendments: immediately prohibits the **rental of multi-family units** of apartment households, hinders economic recovery by throwing their financial planning in jeopardy, and hampers implementation and enforcement.² And while strong eviction moratoriums have proven **effective**, researchers found that strong eviction moratoriums led to over **2,000** excess COVID-19 cases and **300** preventable deaths in the U.S. between March and early September.³
- Forgive rent for all renters, and mortgage payments for all homeowners, affordable housing providers, and small landlords, applied from March 2020 until the end of the pandemic. Suspend all rent payments and the above mortgage payments for the duration of the crisis, and cancel accumulated arrears.

Rent forgiveness is necessary to ensure assistance swiftly reaches those who need it most. Low-income renters, who constitute the **majority** of renters, would disproportionately benefit from sweeping forgiveness.⁴ In contrast, unemployment insurance and stimulus checks are **regressive** forms of rental relief. Only **2%** of low-income adults had received 10 or more of August, but 55% of higher households with annual income under \$20,000 before COVID-19 have lost employment income since March.⁵ In sectors less domestic work, over **20%** of 20,000 surveyed workers lost jobs, but the **majority** remained on furlough or stimulus.⁶ Rental assistance funds, which typically require renters to apply, are not only quickly running out, but often exclude undocumented people, those informally employed or unbanked, oral households, and anyone who has trouble navigating the application system.⁷ Those needing assistance are falling through the cracks.

January 2021

2021 Federal Housing Agenda

At a time of global health, climate, and housing affordability crises, our country needs a visionary housing policy. We must protect families from the looming threat of unprecendented displacement. We must also halt Wall Street speculation and corporate landlords' growing influence over the housing market, create truly affordable housing, and redress our federal government's history of institutionalized bias, putting us on a path towards greater racial, economic, and gender equity.

We all deserve a stable, affordable place to call home. But as many as **10 million people** nationwide face eviction due to inability to pay rent.¹ Our public housing is in shambles.² Affordable housing is disappearing as homelessness mounts.³ Wall Street speculators and corporate landlords' have picked up housing costs, subjecting residents to predatory lending, rent gouging, and unsafe conditions, while elles pocket runaway profits.⁴ We must urgently create a more just and sustainable housing system.

We envision a federal housing platform with the following pillars:

1. Make Housing a Cornerpiece of COVID-19 Response
2. Provide a Green New Deal for Affordable and Public Housing
3. Expand Tenant Protections
4. Rein in Corporate Landlords
5. Ensure Equitable Development Without Displacement
6. House the Unhoused
7. Ensure Fair Housing
8. Support Reparations

December 2021

Systemic CARE

A Public Health Approach to Ending Overdose in America

THE POPULAR DEMOCRACY

YOUTH MANDATE FOR EDUCATION AND LIBERATION

A MANDATE TO GUIDE US FROM CRISIS TO LIBERATION

Institutional Strength

CPD/A aims to build sustainable, independent, and resilient infrastructure within our network and our institution.

Following a year-long transition process, our new Co-Executive Directors Analilia Mejia and DaMareo Cooper took the helm in January; our former co-EDs stepped into other roles in the movement. The transition comes at a period of significant internal strength and financial stability as our affiliates are ascending to the height of their power. Over the past several years, CPD has grown significantly in terms of scale, stability, and impact. The funding we are moving out to the field has also increased many times over, from \$3.6M in subgrants awarded to affiliates in 2016 to roughly \$9M in 2020 and 2021 between CPD and CPD Action. With this financial stability, CPD expanded our Campaigns, Civic Engagement, Communications, and Development staff to provide increased resources and expertise to affiliates and campaigns. We have also prioritized our digital security, implementing ongoing security measures and staff training, and have had no known breaches of security in the midst of high levels of doxing, phishing, and other cyber threats.



Equity remains a core priority in all aspects of our work. Our new Chief of Equity, People, and Culture supports equitable hiring and retention practices and implementation of equity values across the organization—i.e., incorporating DEI principles within all job descriptions. We are developing a framework to maintain and measure equity in grant-making to affiliates. We conduct an annual equity audit of unionized staff. Our staff DEI Committee solicits our Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) for their input. We recently added a queer and trans ERG. In January we launched a Disability Justice Working Group to lead an organizational change process to ensure we are a disability-inclusive organization. Last year CPD Senior Leadership participated in a multi-month learning process around white supremacy culture within organizations. We are conducting an audit of CPD culture and creating a culture “playbook” to explore further and cultivate an environment of trust, learning, and equity. We developed an Equity Lens tool for planning within the organization and network that addresses structural, procedural, distributional, and transgenerational equity and centers people in all aspects of planning and power building. In order to better define outcomes around CPD’s strategic vision to dismantle racial capitalism, we are collaborating with Liberation in a Generation to engage in building capacity across staff and affiliates to ensure our work aligns with our network-wide goals and affiliate priorities.

As we look toward the future of CPD, we are excited for the next executive and leadership team to continue exploring how our network can develop even further as a trusted and responsive partner in the movement. We are confident that the CPD Network will remain at the forefront of the fight to win badly-needed changes on just, people-centered COVID relief, climate change, immigration reform, housing and evictions, defunding the carceral state, addressing the growth of white supremacist and anti-democratic forces, and more.



Board of Directors



CPD/A's Boards of Directors are composed of representatives of our key constituency groups: state affiliates, core national partner organizations, allied partners, and community members. The Boards oversee and approve CPD/A's core strategic direction; they hold us accountable to our stated annual goals and objectives; additionally, they monitor and approve overall organizational financial stewardship and health.

Center for Popular Democracy

ANALILIA MEJIA

Co-Executive Director, Center for Popular Democracy

DAMAREO COOPER

Co-Executive Director, Center for Popular Democracy

AARON DORFMAN

Executive Director, National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy

MATT HOLLAMBY

Program Officer, The Wyss Foundation

CHRISTINA LIVINGSTON

Executive Director, Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment

JOSE LOPEZ

Co-Executive Director, Make the Road New York

ALICIA RUSSELL

Living United for Change in Arizona

RAMON RAMIREZ

Former President, PCUN (Pineros Y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste)

KIRK NODEN

Principal, Community Building Strategies

RAFAEL NAVAR

Co-Founder and Treasurer, Mijente

CPD Action

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Co-Executive Director, Center for Popular Democracy Action

DAMAREO COOPER

Co-Executive Director, Center for Popular Democracy Action

CHRISTINA LIVINGSTON

Executive Director, Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment

REYNA LOPEZ

Executive Director, PCUN (Pineros Y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste)

MAURICE MITCHELL

Executive Director, Working Families Party

THEO OSHIRO

Co-Executive Director, Make the Road New York

DEBBIE SOTO

Board President, Florida Rising

GUSTAVO TORRES

Executive Director, CASA

JONATHAN WESTIN

Executive Director, New York Communities for Change

Our Senior Leadership Team (SLT) meets weekly to guide the vision, strategy, and fundraising of the organization. In addition to the co-Executive Directors, our Senior Leadership Team (SLT) currently consists of our Chief Operating Officer, Chief of Staff, Chief of Communications, Development Director, and Chief of Innovations. We are also hiring the following Senior Leadership roles: Chief of Politics and Civic Engagement, Chief of Base-Building, Chief of Campaigns, and Chief of Equity and Racial Justice.

Eight primary areas align our goals, resources, and day-to-day work, each led by a member of our Senior Leadership Team: Campaigns, Innovations, Politics and Civic Engagement, Base-building, Racial Equity and Justice, Communications, Infrastructure (Legal, HR, Finance, Development, Operations), and Executive.

ANALILIA MEJIA
Co-Executive Director

ANGELIQUE GREEN
Development Director

DAMAREO COOPER
Co-Executive Director

M HAIGH
Chief of Communications

OONA CHATTERJEE
Chief of Staff

STEVE KEST
Senior Advisor

JENNY FREEDMAN
Chief Operating Officer

JENNIFER EPPS-ADDISON
Transition Advisor and
Former Co-Executive
Director



thank you!

CPD/A's work would not be possible without our supporters and funder partners, and we are deeply grateful for your solidarity in the first year of Analilia and DaMareo's leadership. The work we do together in the CPD Network is powerful and, as we've seen since our founding in 2012, capable of transforming the world.

Thank you for being part of the movement for popular democracy and everything that we've achieved together over the past decade. Your tireless commitment to solidarity strengthens our collective resolve to build a world in which all of us are free to thrive together.



Center for Popular Democracy and CPD Action

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