IMPACT REPORT

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Dear Friends of the North Carolina Justice Center,

This year marks our 25th-anniversary celebration, a milestone that would not have been possible without your support. Whether you attended a day of action, sponsored a community event, called your lawmakers, or donated time or money, your investment in the people of North Carolina enabled us to expand our work in the past two and a half decades.

We have faced challenges, celebrated policy wins, and fought to create a better state. Through the ups and downs, we have been guided by an unwavering commitment to relieving poverty and increasing opportunity for all who call North Carolina home.

While a year of change and transition is ahead of us, the NC Justice Center has decades of success behind us, and we know the way forward. Our organization will continue representing those who need legal services, advocating for progressive policies at the General Assembly, collaborating with state and national partners on important initiatives, and presenting the latest news and research to our audiences.

We envision a North Carolina where every household has access to the resources, services, and fair treatment necessary to achieve economic security. Thank you for your critical role in this work for the past 25 years. Together, we will continue the fight for justice, equity, and prosperity.

With gratitude,

Cil B. Seaze Patricia Timmons-goodson

Rick Glazier Executive Director

Hon. Patricia Timmons-Goodson Board co-chair

Kerrie Stewart Board co-chair

Our mission is to eliminate poverty in North Carolina by ensuring that every household in the state has access to the resources, services, and fair treatment it needs to achieve economic security.

To make *opportunity and prosperity for all* a reality, we work toward:

- *Safe jobs* that pay a living wage and provide benefits
- Access to quality and affordable health care
- Quality public education for every child
- Consumer protections from abusive practices
- Safe and affordable housing
- *Public investments* that expand opportunities for economic security

- A fair and stable revenue system that adequately funds public investments while fairly distributing tax responsibility
- A more fair criminal justice system, from arrest to reentry
- Fair treatment for everyone in North Carolina

 regardless of race, ethnicity, country
 of origin, religion, disability, sex, gender
 identity, or sexual orientation

Advancing People-First Policies

Each year, our team of lobbyists shows up on the ground at the North Carolina General Assembly to advocate for laws that will help to end poverty. Our advocates lead direct actions and educate leaders, stakeholders, and community members. Our researchers crunch the numbers so they can provide fact-based resources that educate our audience of policymakers, community leaders, and impacted individuals.

In 2021, we continued the push for Medicaid expansion in North Carolina and throughout the South, and anchored the Southerners for Medicaid Expansion coalition. For families with low incomes, working people, and immigrant communities, Medicaid expansion is vital.

In addition to public events, we worked in partnership with Fayetteville residents to document health issues in their communities through photography. The powerful exhibition spurred community conversations and attracted the attention of local elected officials. While the work continues to get this policy implemented in 2022, in a historic vote, the state Senate passed Medicaid expansion during the June 2022 short session. We're closer than ever before to bringing affordable healthcare to 600,000 North Carolinians.

As co-chairs of Every Child NC, a coalition working to bring equitable public education funding to North Carolina schools, we advocated on multiple fronts, including organizing an advocacy day urging lawmakers to fully fund the Leandro plan. The plan would ensure adequate resources are available to historically excluded communities—immigrant students, students with disabilities, BIPOC students, and students from families with low incomes.

We also collaborated with Yale University to produce research highlighting the harmful and racist practice of school performance reports, which needlessly stigmatize schools that serve Black, brown, and Native American students.







Advancing People-First Policies (continued)

As the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to show up in communities throughout the state in 2021, it was more important than ever to have a dedicated team advocating for those historically excluded from opportunities because of unjust and racist policies, like working people, immigrant communities, people of color, and incarcerated people. continued to push for record expunction and eliminating fines and fees, which keep those with low incomes in a cycle of debt to the court system.

We provided resources to immigrant communities in Spanish and English on topics such as the Child Tax Credit and the Public Charge rule, as well as a vaccine



Our fact sheets kept communities throughout the state up to date on the eviction moratorium and led the charge to promote the need for affordable housing. As economic hardship continued and the wealth gap grew, our advocates urged the Department of Labor to protect working families hurt by the pandemic, kept workers up to date on their rights, and pushed for improvements to the state's inadequate Unemployment Insurance system.

When vaccine rollout began in early 2021, we worked to highlight the inequity of vaccine distribution in North Carolina's jails and prisons. For North Carolinians involved in the criminal legal system, we information flier and video that was translated into six languages.

Thanks to advocacy from the Southerners for Medicaid Expansion Coalition, a group created by the NC Justice Center, the federal government now offers an additional financial incentive to nonexpansion states if they expand Medicaid. This win means North Carolina would receive an extra \$1.5 billion of federal money for expanding Medicaid.

Following the passage of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), we worked with key partners and local leaders to take advantage of the extraordinary opportunity it represents. Through our AHEAD NC



LEGISLATIV BUILDING





Learning Community platform, we convened three ARPA-focused sessions over the year. These sessions brought local leaders and practitioners together to share models for community engagement, analyses of Treasury guidance, and ways ARPA funding may be leveraged to advance employment equity and workforce development. Further, our technical assistance in support of Fayetteville's Pathways for Prosperity Coalition resulted in \$17.5M in allocations from Cumberland County for community-driven priorities and the initial capitalization of a housing trust fund by the City of Fayetteville.

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Poverty is a complex issue and the solution is multifaceted. We're committed to long-lasting, systemic change for the people of North Carolina, and we will keep working for them in 2022 and beyond.

PUBLIC CHARGE



IN THE PAST FEW YEARS, the low obout "public charge" has charged several times, leaving families confused about what it all miners for them. The law charged again in March 2021, making it quark for most families to paus the public charge test. Read this flyer for the latest information on public stronget.

What benefit programs can I use without concern?

der the new public charge rule in 2021, using the following government grams will NOT affect your immigration status or your immigration plication. You and your children and family members may use them withou neem if you are eligible.

 Modulatif, ACA, NC Health Choice (children's health insurance), relating instance scale clinics, and all other health care Care (lining inspectal al. Care (lining inspectal al. Core (lining inspectal al. Social Core (lining inspectal al. Vectors
 Core (lining inspectal al. Vectors
 Vectors

testing, treatment and + WiC 55 food stamps) + Public Housing Uncome Tax Credit + Free or reduced o

(EITC) and child tax credits and P-EBT Stimulus checks from the IRS Food banks or shelters

Are there any benefit programs I should be concerned about using the only public benefits that are considered negatively in the public charge test are listed leaters.

Cash assistance programs that provide <u>on-going payments</u> o in North Carolina, those programs would include <u>SSI</u> (payments for disable persons) and <u>TANF</u> (monthly cash assistance)

Long-term institutional care at government expense

immigrant who wants to apply for status in the future; are using them for yourse immigrant who wants to apply for status in the future; are using them for yourse your children or other family members in your household are using them, they re only considered negatively if those benefits are the "only source of income" for en enfore household.



Litigation





Each year, our litigation team—made up of individuals with decades of experience tackling issues in court affecting North Carolinians—takes on high-impact cases in all major areas of poverty law, including consumer, housing, public benefits, health, education, employment, and immigrants' rights.

Although focused on North Carolina, we represented clients from across the globe—El Salvador to Cameroon and in between—who needed support with asylum, U-Visas, Cancellation of Removal, and more. We were part of class-action suits that provided settlements to working people wrongly denied fair wages and safe working conditions. As housing costs increased and shortages loomed, we successfully represented clients facing unfair evictions.

In addition, our litigators continued to respond to the community's legal needs brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic with trainings and presentations throughout the state.

Teresa and Diego's Story



Teresa and her husband Diego came to the NC Justice Center seeking legal assistance with their immigration case. In 2005, Teresa made the arduous journey to the U.S., following her mother who had left El Salvador in 2001 after a devastating earthquake that nearly destroyed the country. Diego and Teresa met in the U.S., where he was already working as a housekeeper at a Marriott in Raleigh.

A year before their case, Diego was diagnosed with a rare form of lung cancer. When Diego contacted the NC Justice Center, he was a legal permanent resident, and given his diagnosis, Diego was determined to become a U.S. citizen to be able to petition for his wife so that she could obtain legal status to support their three children financially in the event of his absence.

Our attorneys assisted Diego in filing his application for naturalization that same year, and once he became a citizen, we began the immigration process to file a family petition for Teresa based on their relationship of over 10 years. During this difficult time for the family, Teresa became Diego's primary support. Despite numerous medications and extensive treatment plans, Diego passed away from cancer-related causes. A month before Diego passed away, Teresa's family-based petition was approved, and we started the second part of the process for her. We filed an application for an immigrant visa with the U.S. embassy in El Salvador, Teresa's native country.

Teresa's story is one example of how people migrate to find new opportunities, flee persecution, and seek safety and refuge. Legal representation often makes the difference between whether someone is deported to harm and permanently separated from their family or is allowed to remain safely in the U.S.

Shortly after, we prepped Teresa for her interview and provided her with all the necessary documentation for that important day. Fortunately, she was granted an immigrant visa by the consular officer and was able to return to her children in the U.S. after a month of waiting for her immigrant visa in El Salvador! MPACT REPORT 2021

Celebrating 25 Years of Anti-Poverty Work





When the North Carolina Justice Center formed over 25 years ago, we knew it was our duty and calling to advance anti-poverty legislation and advocate for the rights of all North Carolinians. Throughout the past decades, we've grown and changed, adapting to the ever-shifting political landscape of our state and country.

We're proud to have impacted hundreds of thousands of lives through litigation, policy advocacy, outreach, communications, and research. The fight against poverty isn't over—far from it.







We're committed to making positive change in the next 25 years and beyond. Thank you for all you've done to move us toward a more just and equitable North Carolina.









Communications & Public Engagement

Effective anti-poverty work requires engaging the public, elevating policy debates, and ensuring research-backed communications reach a wide audience.

In 2021, the NC Justice Center produced 60 publications, received over 5,000 mentions in the press, and sent more than 48,000 messages to elected officials. We engaged audiences on social media through live-streamed events and ensured a message of equity and opportunity remained at the forefront of our output.

The year 2021 was another period of extraordinary productivity and impact for NC Policy Watch—the Justice Center's unique communications project that has grown to become North Carolina's preeminent online source for state policy news and progressive commentary. Policy Watch staff curated two highly trafficked websites, published more than 2,000 news stories, commentaries, and interviews, produced 52 half-hour radio shows and more than 300 daily radio commentaries, and hosted multiple online "Crucial Conversations."

Team members also broke several high-profile news stores and took home several national and state journalism awards while fulfilling numerous outside radio, TV, and public speaking commitments. Environmental Reporter Lisa Sorg's investigation into an abandoned missile factory in Burlington ("Clear and Present Danger") earned her the prestigious Thomas L. Stokes Award from the National Press Foundation, which is presented each year to a U.S.-based journalist for reporting excellence on energy and the environment.



By the Numbers



 Handled 45 impact cases & lead or co-counsel in 10 class-actions



• Number of supporters who have made an action in 2021: 3,831



 Served 1,778 legal clients



 Provided legal advice to over 100 immigrant clients



• Worked on cases that resulted in settlements exceeding \$1.7 million



 Sent more than 48,000 messages to elected officials



 Produced 60 publications



 Received over 5,000 mentions in the press



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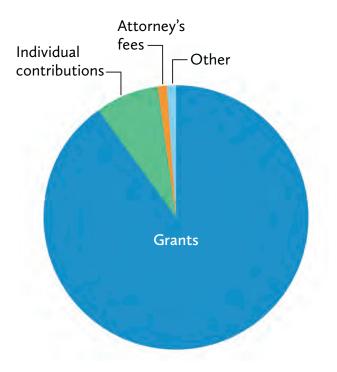
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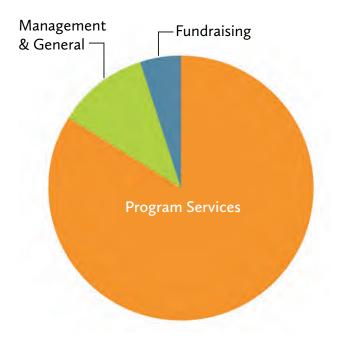


NC Justice Center 2021 Revenue and Expenses



2021 REVENUE: Total \$8.031m

- Grants: 90%
- Individual contributions: 8%
- Attorney's fees: 1%
- Other: 1%



2021 EXPENSES: Total \$7.761M

- Program services: 84%
- Management & General: 11%
- Fundraising: 5%

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