



ANNUAL REPORT 2019



DETENTION
WATCH NETWORK



Front page photo by Faylita Hicks
Photo by Fernando Lopez

DEAR FRIENDS,

Last year marked my 10-year anniversary on staff at Detention Watch Network (DWN). Looking back, the past decade has seen an unprecedented level of immigration enforcement: from the Obama administration's mass deportation machine to the current administration that has been dehumanizing and menacing immigrant communities since day one. At the same time, our movement has risen to the challenge, utilizing innovative tactics and strategies, fostering new partnerships, and shifting from a focus on detention conditions to an abolitionist mission seeking to end the inhumane practice of immigration detention altogether. I couldn't be prouder to be here now as we continue to build power towards our collective liberation.



In addition to my personal milestone, 2019 was a pivotal year for Detention Watch Network. As we continued facing attempts to expand immigration detention and criminalize immigrant communities, our resolve to resist and build the capacity of our Network is stronger than ever. I'm proud to share that we made significant strides and advanced our mission of abolishing immigration detention in this country. These victories are outlined in greater detail in this report.

DWN held several powerful member gatherings throughout the year – a cohort of members with experience in detention came together for a **Healing Towards Liberation convening in Chicago, IL** in the summer; we hosted our first **Communities not Cages convening** with over 80 participants in Birmingham, AL for strategizing, skill-sharing, and community building; and we brought our members together for a **Spokesperson Training in Los Angeles, CA**. Additionally, the Network continues to grow, with 209 members (108 organizational and 101 individual) based in 32 states and participation in the Defund Hate and Communities not Cages campaigns constantly expanding.

It's no secret that attacks against immigrant communities are relentless under this administration, which is why we decided to increase our organizational capacity by hiring several new positions throughout the year. In 2019, our team grew from eight to 14 staff – increasing our ability to carry out advocacy, organizing, communications, and operations work. We also maintained our commitment to investing in the wellbeing of our staff through launching a wellness fund and holding a team-building retreat in May 2019.

Organizationally, DWN went through a significant shift in 2019 as we worked to launch as an independent 501(c)3 organization, following many years as a fiscally sponsored project of the Tides Center. We successfully received our 501(c)3 determination from the IRS in August and "spun off" from Tides on December 31, 2019, beginning operations as our own nonprofit on January 1, 2020.

Looking ahead, I'm eager to advance our mission and build collective power at the local, state, and national levels. Although the path to dismantling the ruthless immigration detention system is a difficult and long-term challenge, I am honored and grateful to lead a passionate team and a dedicated Network towards a future where immigrants are not criminalized, and racial equity is the norm. Lastly, I want to thank you all for everything we have been able to accomplish together and for your continued support.

IN SOLIDARITY,
Silky Shah
Executive Director

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 LETTER FROM SILKY

A Letter from Silky Shah,
Executive Director of DWN

12 ORGANIZATION

501C3 Status
Staff Expansion
Organizational Sustainability

3 MEMBERSHIP

Organizing Support Program
Growth & Retention
Healing Towards Liberation Cohort

14 2019 FINANCES

6 CAMPAIGNS

Defund Hate
Communities Not Cages

15 ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS

Members
Staff & Board of Directors
Funders

10 SHIFTING THE NARRATIVE

Spokesperson Training
Goodwin Simon Strategic Research





Photo by Fernando Lopez

MEMBERSHIP

a growing network of diverse and committed membership

\$152,000
in grants allocated to
12 organizational members

23
new member organizations

33
new individual members

inaugural launch of the
healing towards
liberation cohort

GROWTH & RETENTION

DWN is a proudly member-driven Network, and our strength comes from our diverse and committed membership. Throughout 2019, DWN grew and diversified its membership, including bringing in individuals directly affected by immigration incarceration and groups from key geographies where immigration detention has been increasing. In total, the Network onboarded 56 new members — 23 organizations and 33 individuals with seven individuals directly affected by immigration detention.

HEALING TOWARDS LIBERATION COHORT

DWN hopes to encourage and model the principle of developing the leadership of people most impacted by detention to be at the core of the fight against immigration incarceration. To this end, DWN developed a cohort of members with direct experience in detention, called **Healing Towards Liberation**. The group first convened in Chicago in July 2019 with over 20 participants. The participants engaged in healing, skill-shares, art workshops, and strategy conversations. The convening was successful, providing a space for this cohort to get to know each other, process their experience and heal together, and begin thinking of the next steps for a leadership cohort for people who have lived through detention. To date, the cohort maintains active communication through regular calls to discuss leadership development, goals, and activities that will provide guidance to the Network's approach in ending immigration detention.



ORGANIZING SUPPORT PROGRAM

DWN is committed to capacity-building and providing support and resources to our members. In 2019, the Network completed its fourth round of a sub-granting program – the Organizing Support Program (OSP). Through OSP, DWN provides small grants to DWN members to support projects with innovative approaches to closing detention centers or supporting people who are detained in local facilities. DWN granted a total of \$152,000 to 12 grassroots organizational members.

2019-2020 ROSTER OF OSP GRANTEES

Adelante Alabama Worker Center | #ShutDownEtowah Campaign
Facility Focused: Etowah County Detention Center

American Friends Service Committee Colorado | Colorado Immigrant Rights Program
Facility Focused: Aurora GEO Detention Center

Congregation Action Network | ICE out of DC-Maryland-Virginia
Fighting two newly proposed detention centers in Maryland and DC

The Fang Collective | Shut Down ICE
Facilities Focused: Bristol County House of Corrections, Plymouth County House of Corrections

Grassroots Leadership | Shut Down Hutto
Facility Focused: T. Don Hutto Detention Center

Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice | Shut Down Adelanto
Facility Focused: Adelanto GEO

La ColectiVA | Migrant and Refugee Rights Initiative
Facility Focused: ICA-Farmville, Fairfax County ADC

La Resistancia | Shut Down NWDC
Facility Focused: Northwest Detention Center

Mano Amiga | Wrenching Shut the Arrest-to-Deportation Pipeline in Hays County, TX
Facility Focused: Hays County Jail, Pearsall Detention Center

New Sanctuary Coalition | (Anti)Detention Project
Facilities Focused: Orange County, Bergen County, Hudson County, Essex County, Elizabeth County

Queer Detainee Empowerment Project | QDEP Organizing Base

Rio Grande Valley Equal Voice Network | Organicemos Por La Libertad
Facilities Focused: El Valle Detention Center, East Hidalgo Detention Center, Port Isabel Service Processing Center, Carrizales Detention Center



Photo by Javier Sierra

DEFUND HATE

The **Defund Hate** campaign, co-led by DWN, continued its efforts to reduce the funding allocated for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in 2019.

The campaign ended the year having effectively blocked \$7 billion in funding for immigration enforcement operations since its 2017 launch. The diverse and growing coalition also succeeded in getting over 100 members of Congress (MOCs) on the record calling for cuts in funds to ICE and CBP, with "Defund Hate" becoming a primary demand for the progressive movement.

Throughout 2019, the Defund Hate coalition engaged in two fiscal year campaigns: Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) with a budget deal struck in March, and Fiscal Year

2020 (FY20), with negotiations concluding in December.

Fiscal Year 2019

The year started with the government in the midst of an unprecedented 35-day partial shutdown. The government reopened on January 25, with a Continuing Resolution through February 15 and formation of a bipartisan, bicameral Conference Committee dedicated to negotiating a deal. During this process, the Defund Hate campaign engaged in efforts to prevent increased funding for detention and deportation operations for FY19 through delivery of over 330,000 petition signatures to congressional leadership, email blasts to over 100 Hill offices, targeted outreach with conference conferees and congressional caucuses, aligned messaging, and relationship building.

However, despite the coalition's best efforts, the final negotiated bill did not meet these demands, with no limitation on transfers and a 5,000 person per day increase in detention funding. Throughout the shutdown and conference committee process, there was more attention paid to detention than ever before, and detention capacity became a final sticking point in the negotiations.

In June, DWN and United We Dream (UWD) organized a two-day Defund Hate convening. Approximately 100 people participated in strategy sessions, an action in the Senate rotunda, and Hill visits.

Fiscal Year 2020

In early 2019, coalition members also began holding meetings with MOCs to position them for the FY20 fight. The coalition met with

first term MOCs to educate them about Defund Hate priorities, as well as MOCs who voted for the FY19 spending bill to hold them accountable and persuade them to support cuts in funding for FY20.

In addition to educating MOCs about the FY20 federal budgeting process, the coalition responded to a supplemental funding request by the Trump administration for \$4.5 billion in additional enforcement funding in April. Unfortunately, getting support for rejecting the supplemental request was difficult. The Trump administration attached border funds to disaster relief funding and treated the supplemental requests as a necessary response to the (completely manufactured) humanitarian crisis at the border. In response, the coalition sent out action alerts, coordinated an organizational sign-on letter, drafted talking points and social media graphics, met with congressional offices in both the House and Senate, and held a national call-in day against the supplemental funding request. After weeks of work to oppose this funding request, Congress passed the supplemental funding bill in June. The final package included some positive things like reimbursement for communities at the border, funding for case management, post-release services, child advocates and legal services for unaccompanied children, and increasing funding for the Legal Orientation Program (LOP). However, it mostly funded more enforcement and detention.

As the end of the fiscal year neared, the coalition held a

Defund Hate congressional briefing in late July, attended by 30 House staffers. In addition, the coalition coalesced around an August recess strategy and a revised set of demands.

In the end, following two Continuing Resolutions, the FY20 bill was passed in late December. The bill resulted in positive gains as 1) 75 members of Congress in the House voted no on the FY20 appropriations package because it failed to include Defund Hate priorities, 2) the passed bill

prohibits ICE from stopping MOCs from doing unannounced visits, and 3) 2020 is the first year since Trump took office that Congress did not appropriate an increase in detention capacity. However, the final bill still allows ICE and CBP to continue expanding the detention and deportation force and to take money from other agencies within Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Unfortunately, the bill also provides DHS \$1.37 billion to build the border wall.

DEFUND HATE CAMPAIGN PARTNERS

- American Civil Liberties Union
- Alianza Americas
- American Friends Service Committee
- Asian Americans Advancing Justice
- Bend the Arc: Jewish Action
- Bridges Faith Initiative
- Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
- CREDO
- Church World Service
- Detention Watch Network
- Earth Justice
- Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM)
- Generation Progress
- Immigrant Defense Project
- Immigrant Legal Resource Center
- Indivisible
- Immigrant Youth Coalition
- LA RED, a campaign of Faith in Action
- Lights for Liberty
- MomsRising
- MoveOn
- NAKASEC
- National Bail Fund Network
- National Center for Lesbian Rights
- National Council of Jewish Women
- National Immigrant Justice Center
- National Immigration Law Center
- National Immigration Project
- National Iranian American Council
- Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism
- Southern Border Communities Coalition
- South Asian Americans Leading Together
- Southeast Immigrant Rights Network (SEIRN)
- The Immigration Hub
- UndocuBlack
- Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
- UltraViolet
- United We Dream
- We Belong Together

COMMUNITIES NOT CAGES

This 2019, the Communities not Cages campaign successfully prevented five more detention facilities from opening or expanding and supported the passage of HB 2040 in Illinois in April and Assembly Bill 32 in CA in October, which bans for-profit immigration detention centers.

DWN launched its Communities not Cages (CNC) campaign in 2018, which amplifies the longstanding local organizing of members, advocates, and allies across the country against detention centers. In 2019, the campaign continued building a nationally coordinated strategy focused on preventing detention expansion through three different types of work: anti-expansion, shut down efforts, and stopping the proliferation of ICE detention into other government agencies.

In 2019, the CNC campaign prevented five more detention facilities from opening or expanding: in Dwight, IL; Ionia County, MI; Sherburne County, MN; and New Richmond, WI. The campaign also supported the passage of HB 2040 in IL in April 2019, which bans for-profit immigration detention centers, and Assembly Bill 32 in CA in

October 2019 which bans private prisons used by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

DWN held its inaugural CNC convening in November 2019 in Birmingham, AL, bringing together over 80 organizers, advocates, and people who are directly impacted by the

detention system for skill-sharing, community-building, and strategizing for 2020. DWN staff, members, and partners hosted workshops on various advocacy, communications, and organizing strategies during the first two days. Moreover, the convening included plenaries and



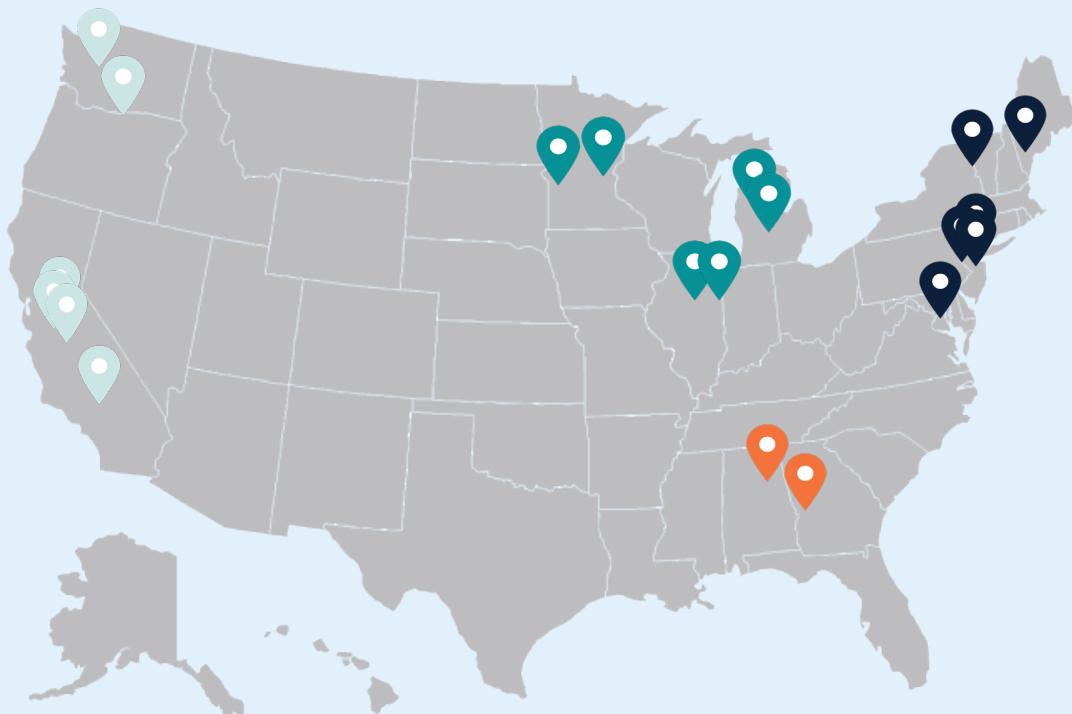
CNC SITE FIGHTS IN 2019

WEST

Tacoma NW Detention Center, WA
NW Regional Correctional Facility, OR
Adelanto GEO Detention Center, CA
Mesa Verde Detention Facility, CA
Golden State Correctional Facility, CA
Central Valley Correctional Facility, CA

EAST

Elizabeth County Detention Center, NY
Bergen County Detention Center, NY
Hudson County Detention Center, NY
Essex County Detention Center, NY
Donald W. Wyatt Detention Facility, RI
Proposed facilities in Maryland



MIDWEST

Proposed facility in Ionia County, MI
Northlake Correctional Facility, MI
Sherburne County Jail, MN
Proposed facility in Appleton, MN
Proposed facility in Dwight, IL
Jerome Combs Detention Center, IL

SOUTH

Etowah County Detention Center, AL
Stewart Detention Center, GA

regional breakouts to connect members and partners to share best practices and strategies in their approach to state and local fights. On the last day, Shut Down Etowah coordinated a visitation to those who are detained at the Etowah County Detention Center, followed by an action targeting the

detention center. The convening allowed for community and cultural building through an art and resistance workshop led by member Miguel Lopez, and a Halloween party on the first night, which included performances from members, dancing, and a costume contest.

As our community continues to struggle for the liberation of those who are detained in ICE facilities, DWN aided the work of organizations in shutting down local detention sites while also creating avenues where they can connect and build power together.

SHIFTING THE NARRATIVE





Photo by Fernando Lopez

SPOKESPERSON TRAINING

DWN is investing in members' capacity as spokespeople, knowing how important it is to ensure that local media and national outlets are exposing the full narrative of immigration detention. To that end, DWN began a partnership with member organization Opportunity Agenda and created a three-part spokesperson curriculum for grassroots members: Narrative and Messaging for Long-Term Change; Telling your Own Detention Story; and Train the Trainer, where participants will learn the necessary facilitation skills to present on the first two modules. DWN rolled out the first module during a spokesperson training in Los Angeles in November 2019. Over 40 members attended the training where participants learned messaging tactics, compelling story-telling, and effective delivery based on target audiences.

GOODWIN SIMON STRATEGIC RESEARCH

In fall 2018, DWN entered a partnership with the reputable firm Goodwin Simon Strategic Research to run a large-scale messaging research project throughout 2019. This project sought to determine the most effective messages around issues of immigrant detention by conducting intensive research. Throughout 2019, the project conducted three phases: 1) goals and hypotheses development and landscape research, 2) mindset mapping and persuasion development, 3) persuasion strategies development and testing, and the following outcomes were met:

- Conducted five one-on-one in-depth stakeholder interviews of thought leaders that represent various sectors that relate to immigrant detention and work either nationally or in the following states: California, Georgia, Indiana, or Texas
- Conducted a media audit through the review of 1,343 articles on topics related to immigrant detention
- Selected 46 articles related to immigration detention for in-depth social listening analysis
- Conducted an online focus group among 30 participants from California, Georgia, Indiana, New Mexico, and Texas
- Conducted in-person focus groups in Indiana, Georgia, and California
- Conducted an online survey of 622 registered voters in California, Georgia, Texas, Indiana, and New Mexico

The project concluded with message recommendations tailored to different audiences. Throughout 2020, the Network will distribute the toolkit with members and allies to help amplify their communications strategy and deliver effective messaging on detention issues.

ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES & ACHIEVEMENTS



Photo by Fernando Lopez

501C3 SPIN-OFF

GROWING STAFF

On January 1, 2020, DWN spun off from Tides as its fiscal sponsor and became an independent 501c3. The organization shifted its Steering Committee to a formal governing Board of Directors, developed its own personnel and financial policies, and selected benefits and payroll providers.

To build our capacity in our fight to end detention, DWN has grown significantly in the last year. Throughout 2019, DWN expanded its team to increase the Network's programmatic and administrative capacity to support the growing membership and campaigns. The Network hired an Advocacy Associate, Field Advocacy Manager, TX-based Organizer, CA-based Organizer, Communications Associate, Development Associate, and Administrative Associate. At the end of 2019, DWN is fully staffed with 13 personnel, based in DC, IL, TX, WA, and CA.

ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

DWN recognizes the demanding work it takes to fight immigration incarceration. As such, the Network believes in investing in the wellness and success of our team to help them sustain and grow in this work. In 2019, DWN incorporated various practices for organizational sustainability including digital security, new offices, political education, staff wellness fund and a wellness retreat. These practices are elaborated below:

- DWN held an all-staff wellness retreat in Miami in May, aimed at fostering team building and promoting restorative practices. The staff participated in a StrengthsFinder team blend activity, continued work on organizational racial equity practices, toured the Everglades, and held a social gathering with south Florida-based members.
- DWN opened a new office in Chicago, IL in May 2019.
- DWN introduced digital security protocols and invested in secure technology for messaging, videoconferencing, and file-sharing. The Network also worked with a consultant to educate staff in understanding the technicalities of digital security.
- DWN introduced the wellness fund for staff, where all staff are eligible for up to \$500 per year to cover costs related to wellness (talk therapy, massage therapy, acupuncture, physical fitness, etc.).
- DWN staff began monthly political education sessions, wherein a different member of staff leads a political education session on their topic of choice, contributing to leadership development and collective learning.
- DWN began the practice of holding racial “affinity caucus” sessions during all-staff in-person gatherings.

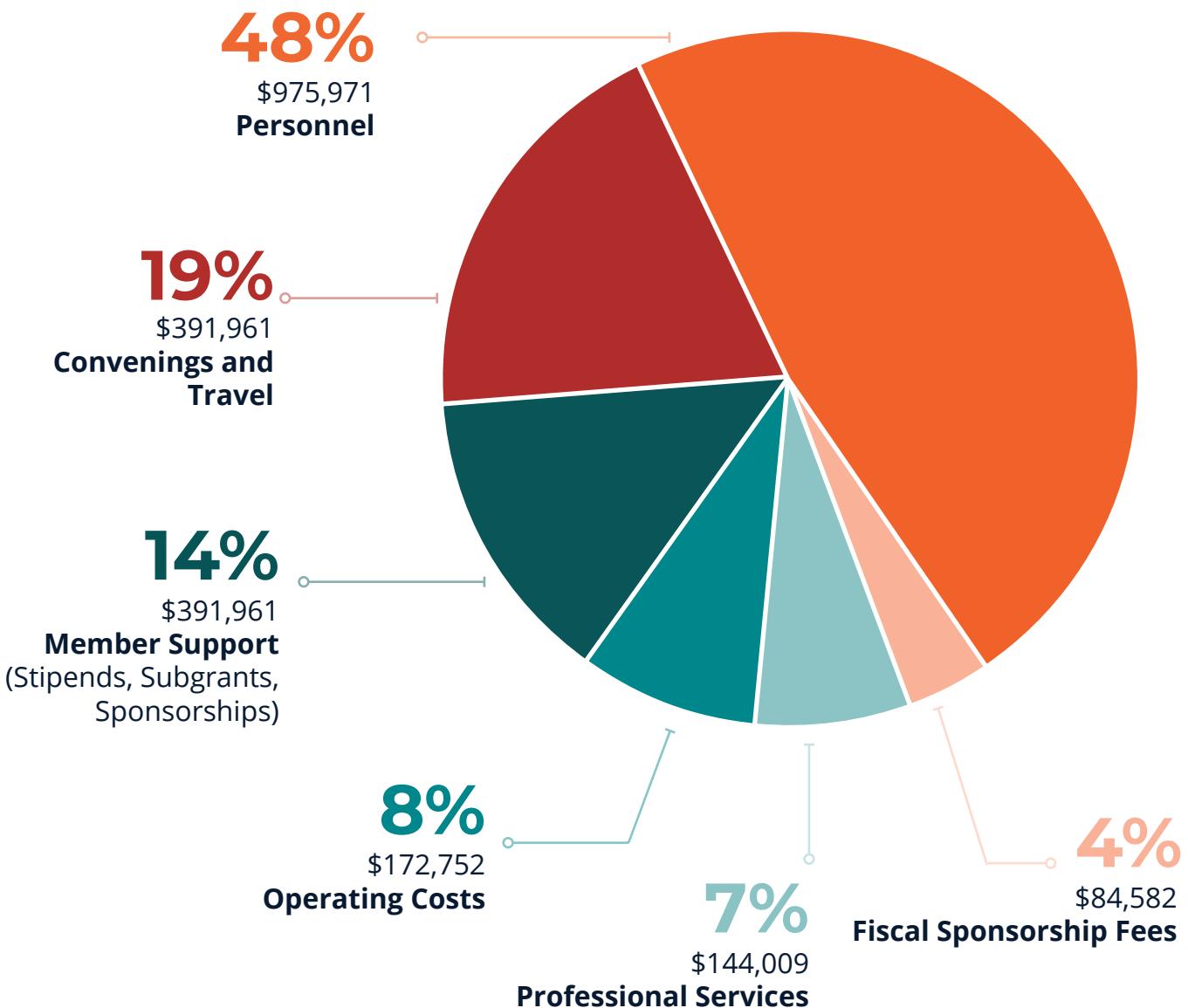
**became an
independent
501c3**

**staff wellness fund
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**staff grew to
13 personnel
to build our capacity to
end detention**

**opened a
new office
in Chicago, IL**

2019 FINANCES



ORGANIZATION MEMBERS

REGIONAL

La Unidad 11
Mid-South Immigration
Advocates, Inc.

Sanctuary DMV
Southeast Immigrant Rights
Network

NATIONAL

ACLU Immigrants' Rights
Project
Alianza Americas
American Friends Service
Committee
American Immigration Council
American Immigration
Lawyers Association
Americans for Immigrant
Justice
Amnesty International USA
Center for Constitutional
Rights
Community Justice Exchange
(National Bail Fund Network)
Detained Migrant Solidarity
Committee
Faith In Action (La Red)
Freedom For Immigrants
Friends Committee on
National Legislation
Human Rights First
Immigrant Legal Defense
Immigrant Legal Resource
Center
Innovation Law Lab
Interfaith Immigration
Coalition
Interfaith Movement for
Human Integrity
Justice Strategies
La Resistencia
Latinx Therapists Action
Network
National Immigrant Justice
Center
National Immigration Law
Center
National Network for
Immigrant and Refugee Rights
National Religious Campaign
Against Torture
The Opportunity Agenda
Private Corrections Institute
Quixote Center
RAICES
Sisters of Mercy of the
Americas
Southeast Asia Resource
Action Center
Southern Poverty Law Center
Tsuru For Solidarity
UndocuBlack Network
Unitarian Universalist Service
Committee
United Stateless
Women's Refugee Commission

INTERNATIONAL

Progressive Americans Action
League

STATE AND LOCAL

ALABAMA

Adelante Alabama Worker Center

ARIZONA

No More Deaths
Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project
Law Offices of Brelje and Associates

CALIFORNIA

California Immigrant Youth Justice Alliance
Immigrants' Rights Clinic, Stanford Law School
Immigrant Youth Coalition
Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice
Public Counsel

COLORADO

Civil Rights Education and Enforcement Center
Colorado People's Alliance (COPA)
Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network

CONNECTICUT

Make the Road CT

FLORIDA

Americans for Immigrant Justice
Friends of Miami-Dade Detainees
University of Miami School of Law Immigration Clinic

GEORGIA

El Refugio Ministry
Georgia Detention Watch

ILLINOIS

Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Organized Communities Against Deportations
Scott D. Pollock & Associates, P.C.

INDIANA

Northwest Indiana Resist (NWI Resist)

LOUISIANA

New Orleans Workers' Center for Racial Justice

MARYLAND

Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore

MAINE

Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project

MICHIGAN

No Detention Centers in Michigan

MISSOURI

St. Louis Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America

NEVADA

Make the Road NV

NEW JERSEY

Make the Road NJ

NEW MEXICO

New Mexico Immigrant Law Center
Santa Fe Dreamers Project
Cornell Law School Asylum Clinic

NEW YORK

DRUM - Desis Rising Up & Moving
Families for Freedom
HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society)
Immigrant Defense Project
Make the Road NY
Movement for Justice in El Barrio
New Sanctuary Coalition of NY
Queer Detainee Empowerment Project
First Friends of NJ & NY

OREGON

Rural Organizing Project

PENNSYLVANIA

Juntos
Make the Road PA

RHODE ISLAND

The FANG Collective

Providence Youth Student Movement

TENNESSEE

comunidades unidas en una voz

TEXAS

American Gateways

Grassroots Leadership

Mission Presbytery

Mano Amiga

Proyecto Azteca

Waco Immigrants Alliance

VIRGINIA

La ColectiVa

WASHINGTON

Amend Law LLC

Colectiva Legal del Pueblo

Jefferson County Immigrant Rights Advocates

Northwest Immigrant Rights Project

WYOMING

WyoSayNo



STAFF

LISSETTE CASTILLO

Organizer

FEVEN FERAI

Finance and Operations Manager

SETAREH GHANDEHARI

Advocacy Manager

MARCELA HERNANDEZ

Organizer

GABRIELA

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JEANINE SHADÉ QUINTANILLA

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KAREN ROXAS

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JOLIE STEINERT

Administrative Associate

LUIS SUAREZ

Field Advocacy Manager

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Organizing Director

SILKY SHAH

Executive Director

GABRIELA VIERA

Advocacy Associate



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THANK YOU

TO THE FUNDERS WHO MADE DWN'S WORK POSSIBLE IN 2019

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Anonymous

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Dr. Bronner's Family Foundation

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Heising-Simons Foundation

Island Foundation, Inc.

Oak Foundation

Open Society Foundations

Solidarity Giving

DWN Members, who contributed \$78,960 in dues



DETENTION
WATCH NETWORK