

Our moment of truth

Annual Report

We are
the **Drug**
Policy
Alliance.



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The work described herein includes that of the Drug Policy Alliance, a 501 (c)(3) organization, and Drug Policy Action, a 501 (c)(4) organization. References to “DPA” refer to the work of both organizations.

Making your voice **heard**

The work of the Drug Policy Alliance is both all about drugs and ultimately not really about drugs at all.

We are at the front lines of much larger struggles in U.S. and international society—over what it means to remain a free society and how we deal with both real and phantom threats to health, life and security.

The war on drugs is the new Jim Crow, providing a contemporary veneer for longstanding prejudices and discriminations. It's the engine for record-breaking rates of arrests and incarceration in this country, the basis for depriving millions of Americans of the right to vote, and the justification for threatening and discriminating against tens of millions of Americans who have committed no harm against their fellow citizens. It's provided the rationale for violating the sovereignty of foreign nations, and for blocking public health interventions that could save millions of people from dying of overdose or HIV/AIDS.

We've devoted the past two decades to building the Drug Policy Alliance into an increasingly powerful force. Our growing

success is in part a result of our determination and ability to bring together people who may agree on nothing more than the need to end the drug war. That will not change as we move forward in a new political climate.

Our core policy goals are widely accepted across the country: addiction must be treated as a health issue, incarceration needs to be drastically cut, and marijuana should simply be made legal. Looking back on the past year, we feel proud of our remarkable victories yet fully cognizant of the immense challenges ahead.

No other issue was on the ballot in so many states and no other issue won in so many places last November. Marijuana legalization initiatives prevailed in four out of five states, and medical marijuana initiatives prevailed in all four states. We're especially proud of our leadership role on California's Proposition 64, which sets a new gold standard for marijuana policy with its cutting edge provisions to

undo the most egregious harms of marijuana prohibition on impacted communities of color and with its sensible approaches to public health, youth protection, licensing and revenue allocation.

Your support also helped us win many other harm reduction and criminal justice reform victories, perhaps most notably reforms in California and Florida that scale back civil asset forfeiture laws to protect people from unjust property seizures.

We're concerned, of course, by our new president's opposition to commutations for non-violent drug offenders and proposals to reform

harsh drug laws; his rejection of restoring the right to vote to millions of Americans living with a felony conviction; his enthusiasm for discredited and unconstitutional "stop and frisk" police tactics; and his claim that the best way to deal with the opioid epidemic is to build a wall on the border with Mexico.

We advocate for drug policies grounded in science, compassion, health and human rights because we believe those values should infuse all public policies.

Donald Trump's election and his appointment of drug war extremists to senior positions are going to make it harder to consolidate our marijuana legalization victories, and to make progress in Congress on rolling back harsh drug laws, repealing civil asset forfeiture laws, reducing overdose fatalities, and integrating harm reduction principles into federal drug policies.

But what most concerns us is the likely assault on the values for which we've fought for so long.



We advocate for drug policies grounded in science, compassion, health and human rights because we believe those values should infuse all public policies. We fight against government oppression of people who use drugs—and even those who grow, make, sell and buy them—because we believe that no one should be persecuted and prosecuted for acts that do no harm to others.

And we demand accountability for the harms perpetrated in the name of the war on drugs because we know that an open society can only live up to its ideals and flourish when government is held accountable both to law and basic standards of decency.

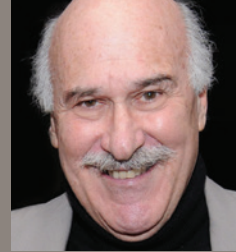
Only through our shared strength and vision can we uproot the drug war and advance the broader values that guide our struggle.

We're counting on your continued support to make this possible.



A stylized, handwritten signature of Ethan Nadelmann in white ink.

Ethan Nadelmann
Executive Director



A stylized, handwritten signature of Ira Glasser in white ink.

Ira Glasser
President

Making marijuana **legal** and ensuring responsible & equitable regulation

DPA works to repeal marijuana prohibition and create sensible systems of regulation for adult use.

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We work closely with government agencies to devise regulations even as we mobilize external pressure to ensure laws are implemented in good faith. Our public relations work has generated earned media coverage valued at tens of millions of dollars over the years, shaping national and international perception in ways that advance our agenda.

The 2016 election was a watershed moment for the movement to end marijuana prohibition. California, Maine, Massachusetts, and Nevada legalized marijuana, while medical marijuana initiatives prevailed in Arkansas, Florida, Montana and North Dakota. DPA was involved in virtually all of these efforts, helping with drafting, funding and advocacy. Now almost 200 million Americans live in medical marijuana states and more than 60 million live in states where marijuana prohibition is a thing of the past.

The most significant of these victories was California's Proposition 64, which legalizes the adult use of marijuana in the nation's largest state. It enacts across-the-board retroactive sentencing reform for marijuana offenses, while establishing a comprehensive system to tax and regulate businesses to produce and distribute marijuana in a legal market. Prop. 64 sets a new gold standard for marijuana policy because of its cutting edge provisions to undo the most egregious harms of marijuana prohibition on impacted communities of color and the environment as well as its sensible approaches to public health, youth protection, licensing and revenue allocation.

The Drug Policy Alliance and its lobbying arm, Drug Policy Action, played a key leadership role in the California campaign—co-drafting the initiative, coordinating the political mobilization,



Last Fall, DPA collaborated with award-winning director dream hampton on a powerful video featuring Jay Z and the artwork of Molly Crabapple, *From Prohibition to Gold Rush: A History of the War on Drugs*, which has now been viewed by millions of people. Launched in the *New York Times*, the video addresses mass incarceration, racial discrimination in drug arrests, the emerging legal marijuana market, and the need to repair the drug war's harms.

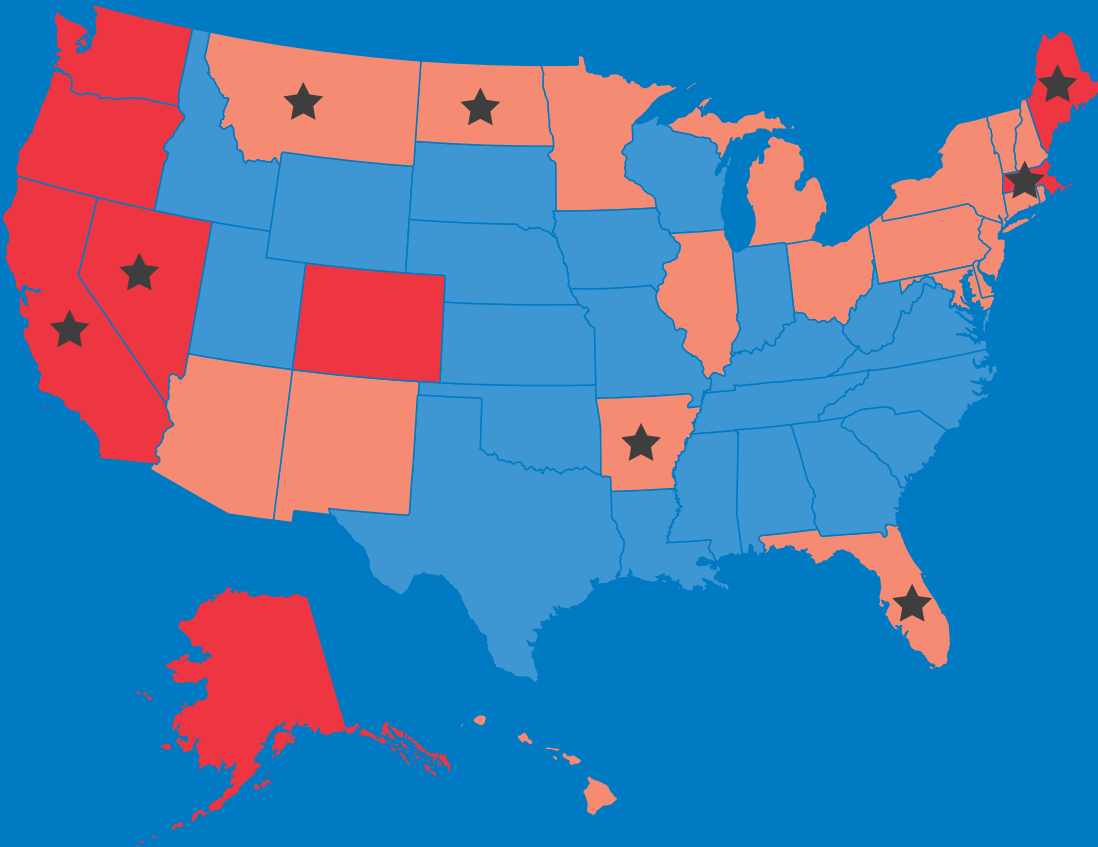


Now almost 200 million Americans live in **medical marijuana states** and more than 60 million live in states where marijuana prohibition is **a thing of the past.**



The new state of marijuana reform

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Recreational & medical states Medical only states ★ 2016 election victories

social media, public relations and more, and raising over \$5 million to fund the effort.

The results of the Presidential Election, however, leave many of these victories in a tenuous situation.

The Obama administration gave a crucial green light in 2013 to allow Colorado and Washington, and other states thereafter, the flexibility to implement their legalization initiatives notwithstanding federal prohibition. Some had hoped that the new administration

The Drug Policy Alliance and its lobbying arm, Drug Policy Action, played a key leadership role in the California campaign.

would be good on marijuana policy given Trump's campaign statement that legalization "should be a state issue, state-by-state." But that hope has been seriously diminished by his choice for attorney general—Senator Jeff Sessions, a drug war dinosaur with a long history of racist rhetoric and sympathies.

The past year marked another breakthrough in our work on Capitol Hill to reform federal marijuana policy. We played an instrumental role in several successful legislative efforts, including the renewal of legislation cutting off funding for the DEA and other federal law enforcement agencies to interfere with state medical marijuana laws.

Support for drug policy reform is rising across the political spectrum. Medical marijuana amendments now routinely pass the Republican-controlled House and Republican-controlled Senate Appropriations Committee; an amendment to end federal marijuana prohibition outright failed by just nine votes last year in the House.

Our offices in New Jersey, New Mexico and New York have launched what we expect will be multi-year campaigns to legalize marijuana through their legislatures, and we'll be working closely with allies to support similar efforts in several more states.

We took our biggest steps ever in 2016—yet 2017 could very well be the most significant year so far in our decades-long struggle to end marijuana prohibition.

Ending the **drug war** & mass criminalization

Almost half a million people, disproportionately black and Latino, are locked up in U.S. prisons and jails today because of drug prohibition.

It costs many billions of dollars annually to arrest and incarcerate them. As support for criminal justice reform grows dramatically, drug policy reform is at the cutting-edge of broader efforts to end mass criminalization and re-envision the criminal justice system.


DPA has been at the forefront of many, perhaps most, major drug sentencing reforms over the past two decades. There are many tens of thousands fewer people behind bars today as a result of DPA's efforts—and hundreds of thousands who either did not go to jail or prison, or who spent less time there, because of our work.

Our longstanding efforts to end civil asset forfeiture—the widespread police practice of seizing people's property without even a conviction—paid off big time last year, as California and Florida reformed their civil asset forfeiture laws to protect people suspected of drug law violations from unjust property

seizures. DPA played a pivotal role in both of these states' efforts, working with allies from across the political spectrum.

Our focus is increasingly on reducing and ending criminal punishment for drug possession. We've invested substantial research to determine how to best move public opinion. We're working with legislators, most notably in Maryland, to end the criminalization of drug possession. And where it's still treated as a felony, as is the case in 32 states, we're working to reduce it to a misdemeanor.



A woman with glasses and dark hair is holding a large black protest sign. The sign has white text that reads "NO MORE DRUG WAR" and the website "www.nomoredrugwar.org". The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent red filter. There are white geometric shapes: a large arrow pointing right in the top right corner, and two white trapezoidal shapes on the left side, one pointing down and one pointing up.

There are many tens of thousands fewer people behind bars today **as a result of DPA's efforts**—and hundreds of thousands who either did not go to jail or prison, or who spent less time there, **because of our work.**

Introducing DPA's office of academic engagement

Just over a year ago, we launched our Office of Academic Engagement (OAE) to more deeply engage researchers and academics in DPA's work and the drug policy reform movement more broadly. DPA has a rich tradition of bringing together key thinkers from around the world to tackle the complex problems posed by drug policy. Building on that legacy, OAE supports scholars in doing advocacy, convenes experts to inform the field, and strengthens DPA's use of research in advancing its policy positions.

In its first year, the office organized two seminal events. *New Strategies for Novel Psychoactive Substances*, hosted at the New School for Social Research and the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, which laid the foundation for a series of recommendations for researchers, policymakers, medical and social service providers, and media. *Black Faces White Lives: Race and Reparative Justice in the Era of a "Gentler War on Drugs"*, hosted at Columbia University, presented a framework for reducing the harms associated with drug use as well as the harms wrought by our drug policies past and present.

Building on its network of more than 450 scholars, the OAE will continue to advance drug policies grounded in the best possible evidence.



During the 2016 presidential primaries, DPA conducted polls on decriminalization for the first time and the results were promising—with significant majorities of voters in New Hampshire, Maine and even South Carolina supporting an end to arrests for drug possession.

At the local level, we're leading efforts to initiate and implement Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) programs in several cities across the country such as Ithaca, Los Angeles,

With your support, more and more policymakers and elected officials are realizing that for the sake of our safety and health, it makes sense to **reduce the role of criminalization in drug policy.**

Pueblo (CO), Santa Fe and San Francisco. This is a major step toward our ultimate goal of ending criminal penalties for drug possession. In Ithaca we went a step further and worked closely with the city's mayor, Svante Myrick, to introduce a comprehensive municipal drug strategy that received significant national press.

And nothing surprised us more than the outpouring of support when the DEA moved to prohibit kratom, a medicinal plant used for millennia in Southeast Asia that's currently used by millions in the U.S. We mobilized to stop the DEA and were stunned at the nearly 100,000 DPA supporters who contacted their Representatives. For the first time ever, the DEA at least temporarily backed off an effort to ban yet another substance.

With your support, more and more policymakers and elected officials are realizing that for the sake of our safety and health, it makes sense to reduce the role of criminalization in drug policy.



Promoting health, reducing harm

DPA is leading the fight to reduce the death, disease, crime and suffering associated with both drug use and drug prohibition.

This means supporting harm reduction interventions grounded in science, compassion, health and human rights. Throughout DPA's history, one major focus has been reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C and other preventable diseases by making sterile syringes legally available. This paid off in a big way over the past two years, with Congress overturning the decades-long ban on federal funding for syringe access programs, and with states like Florida, Indiana, Kentucky and Maryland passing legislative reforms to initiate such programs.

DPA took the lead over a decade ago in addressing the rapidly growing number of overdose deaths, which recently surpassed auto accidents as the leading cause of accidental death in the U.S. The past few years have been transformative for overdose prevention efforts in the U.S., and much of it can be credited to our efforts.

In the last three years, more than two dozen states have passed legislation to increase access to naloxone and "911 Good Samaritan" laws to stop arresting and prosecuting people for drug possession when they call 911 to report an overdose.

The past few years have been transformative for overdose prevention efforts in the U.S., and much of it can be credited to our efforts.

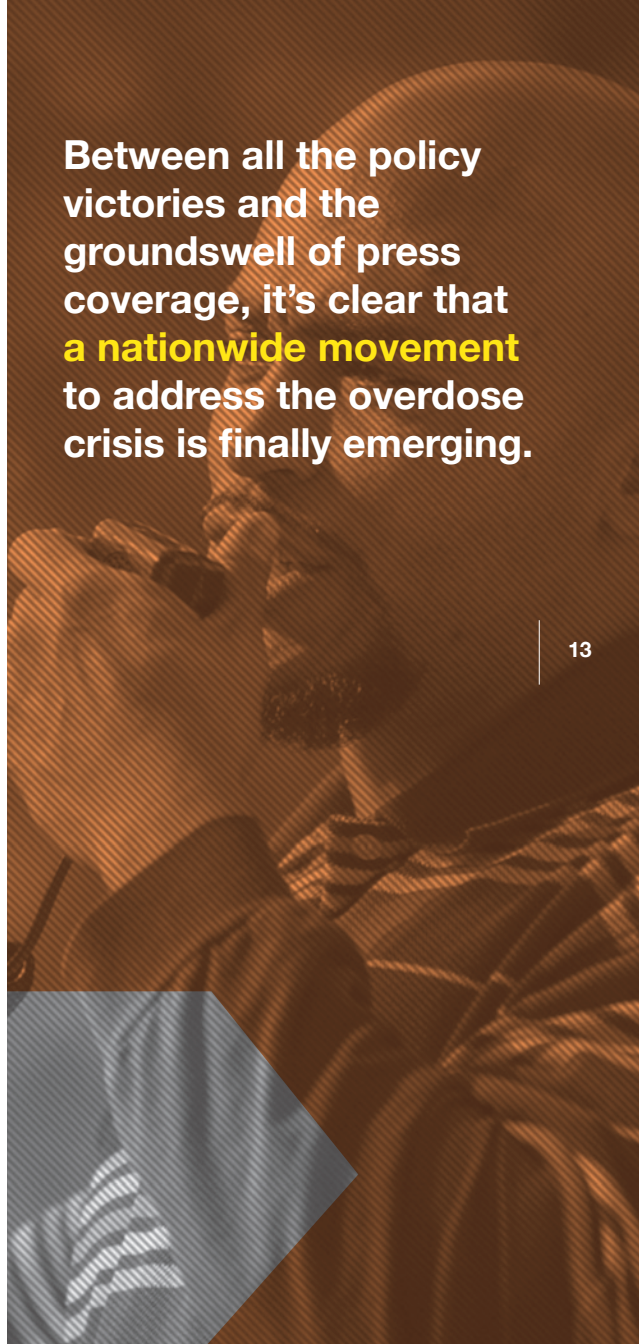
In 2016 we led efforts in New Mexico and Maine to pass life-saving overdose prevention legislation that improves access to the overdose antidote, naloxone, and we were even able to override Governor LePage's veto in Maine.

Our work building support for the first supervised consumption facility in the U.S. is especially promising. These facilities are places where people who inject drugs can do so under the supervision of a healthcare professional and connect with life-saving services. There is overwhelming evidence from the nearly 100 facilities operating in 68 cities worldwide that they drastically reduce new HIV infections, overdoses, and public nuisance without increasing drug use or criminal activity. They also provide enormous fiscal benefits to taxpayers. With your continued support, this life-saving strategy will be coming to the U.S. soon.

Between all the policy victories and the groundswell of press coverage, it's clear that a nationwide movement to address the overdose crisis is finally emerging. It is now up to us to ensure the nation's focus on overdose and the growing problems around opioids do not lead to a backlash, that well-intentioned bills do not contain bad provisions, that good policy is implemented in good faith, and that steady progress continues to be made across the country.

Many thanks to you for making all of this possible. Your support is helping save lives every day, all over the country.

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Catalyzing international change

DPA's international work is increasingly focused on advising foreign governments on their own drug policy reforms, as we continue to exert influence on U.S. involvement in global drug policy, provide leadership and coordination among U.S. groups, and contribute to the evolution of global drug policy through the media and strategic alliances.

When world leaders gathered in New York for the most significant international drug policy meeting in almost two decades, the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs (UNGASS), DPA amplified global calls for wholesale reform. We held events on race and the drug war and on the role of faith leaders in drug policy, and arranged for performers in prohibition-era attire to hand UN attendees copies of the *Post-Prohibition Times*, a newspaper printout of a letter to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon urging him to set the stage “for real reform of global drug control policy.”

This public letter, initiated and led by DPA, included an unprecedented and impressive range of signatories from Senators Elizabeth Warren, Cory Booker and Bernie



Sanders to former President Jimmy Carter, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, businessmen Warren Buffett, George Soros and Richard Branson, actors Michael Douglas and Jane Fonda, singers John Legend and Mary J. Blige, activists Reverend Jesse Jackson, Gloria Steinem and Michelle Alexander, as well as distinguished legislators, cabinet ministers, and former UN officials.

With citizens across the world calling for reform, and with countries moving ahead with innovative drug policies, sooner or later the UN too will have to change to reflect new realities on the ground, or risk becoming an irrelevant and ignored force in global drug policy. Thank you for helping make all of this possible.

Advocacy grants

DPA's Advocacy Grants Program promotes policy change and advances drug policy reform at the local, state and national levels by strategically funding smaller, geographically limited or single-issue projects. Funded annually at a level of roughly \$1.2 million, the program raises awareness and promotes policy change through two vehicles: the Promoting Policy Change Program and the Special Opportunities Program.

Promoting Policy Change

A New P.A.T.H.
A New Way of Life Re-Entry Project
AlterNet
BOOM!Health
CANGRESS
Center for Law and Justice
Center for Living and Learning
Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition
DanceSafe
DRCNet Foundation
Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii
Drug Truth Network
Harm Reduction Action Center
Illinois Consortium on Drug Policy (Roosevelt University)
Institute of the Black World, 21st Century
Justice Strategies
Latino Justice
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children

Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership
Moms United (A New P.A.T.H.)
New York Academy of Medicine
North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition
Oakland Community Organizations
One Voice Mississippi
Partnership for Safety and Justice
Protect Families First
Public Defender Association
Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference
San Francisco Drug Users' Union
Southern Coalition for Social Justice
Southern Tier AIDS Program
Streetwise and Safe
Texas Criminal Justice Coalition
The Ordinary People Society
VOCAL
Women With A Vision
Young Women United

Special Opportunities Program

A Better Way Foundation
Atlanta Harm Reduction Coalition
Broken No More/GRASP
Colorado Juvenile Defender Center
DRCNet
Harm Reduction Coalition
Immigrant Defense Project
Intercambios Puerto Rico
Jon Gettman
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children
Maine Harm Reduction Alliance
Mijente
New Mexico Voices for Children
Project Inform
Revolve Impact
Sac Cultural Hub Media Foundation
Suncoast Harm Reduction Project
The Next Movement
Victim Offender Reconciliation Program
VOCAL-NY

Drug Policy Alliance Honorary Board

Former Mayor Rocky Anderson

Harry Belafonte

Former Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci

Deepak Chopra

Congressman John Conyers, Jr.

Walter Cronkite [1916-2009]

Ram Dass

Dr. Vincent Dole [1913-2006]

Former Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders

U.S. District Court Judge Nancy Gertner
(Ret.)

Former Police Chief Penny Harrington

Calvin Hill

Arianna Huffington

Former Governor Gary Johnson

U.S. District Court Judge John Kane

Former Attorney General Nicholas deB.

Katzenbach [1922-2012]

Former Police Chief Joseph McNamara
[1934-2014]

Former Police Commissioner Patrick V.
Murphy [1920-2011]

Dr. Beny J. Primm [1928-2015]

Dennis Rivera

Former Mayor Kurt Schmoke

Dr. Charles Schuster [1930-2011]

Alexander Shulgin [1925-2014]

Former Secretary of State George P.
Shultz

Russell Simmons

U.S. District Court Judge Robert Sweet

Former Chairman of the Federal Reserve
Paul Volcker

International Honorary Board

Richard Branson

Ruth Dreifuss

Václav Havel [1936-2011]

Sting

Drug Policy Alliance Board of Directors

The Hon. Larry Campbell

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Partner of Pareto Partners

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Co-founder, CODEPINK

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Founding Director, Center for Alcohol
and Addiction Studies, Brown University

Pamela Lichty

President, Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i

Svante Myrick

Mayor of Ithaca, New York

Ethan Nadelmann, JD, PhD,

Executive Director

Angela Pacheco

Former District Attorney, 1st Judicial
District, New Mexico

Josiah Rich, MD

Professor of Medicine and Community
Health, The Warren Alpert Medical
School of Brown University

Rev. Edwin Sanders, Secretary

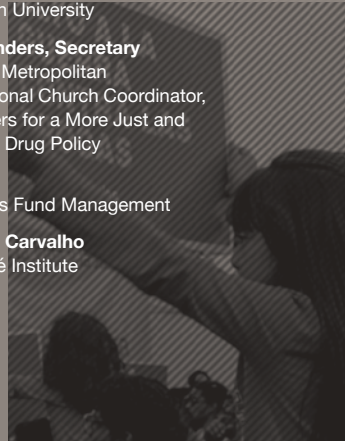
Senior Servant, Metropolitan
Interdenominational Church Coordinator,
Religious Leaders for a More Just and
Compassionate Drug Policy

George Soros

Chairman, Soros Fund Management

Ilona Szabó de Carvalho

Director, Igarapé Institute



Drug Policy Alliance financials

Statement of Financial Position, June 1 2015–May 31 2016

Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,517,402
Investments	\$ 711,022
Grants receivable	\$ 4,322,069
Accounts receivable	\$ 95,186
Prepaid expenses and other assets	\$ 132,163
Deposits	\$ 106,821
Property, equipment and leasehold improvements (net)	\$ 5,516,994

Total Assets	\$ 13,401,657
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Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 631,268
Compensated absences	\$ 366,123
Note payable	\$ 7,000,000
Mortgage payable	\$ 2,794,776

Total Liabilities	\$ 10,792,167
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Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$ (3,242,104)
Temporarily restricted	\$ 5,851,594

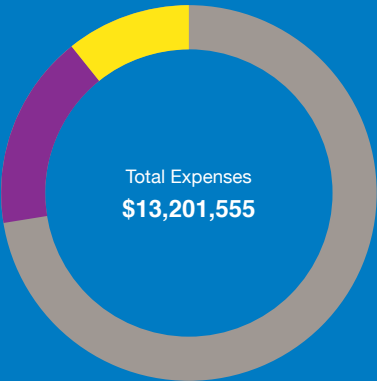
Total Net Assets	\$ 2,609,490
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Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 13,401,657
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Statement of Activities 2016

Expenses



Program expenses	\$ 9,799,537
Management	\$ 2,014,232
Fundraising	\$ 1,387,786
<hr/>	
Total Expenses	\$ 13,201,555

Support & Revenue

Contributions unrestricted	\$ 10,737,108
Contributions temporarily restricted	\$ (307,464)
<hr/>	
Total Income	\$ 10,429,644

Change in Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$ (2,942,991)
Temporarily restricted	\$ (307,464)

Change in Net Assets

Net assets, beginning of year	\$ 5,859,945
Net assets, end of year	\$ 2,609,490

Several Drug Policy Alliance and Drug Policy Action donors have made multi-year pledges to these organizations. These unfulfilled pledges are projected future revenue that will be received within one to nine years and does not constitute an endowment. These donor commitments reflect a strong current and future financial outlook for the Drug Policy Alliance and Drug Policy Action.

Drug Policy Action financials

Statement of Financial Position, June 1 2015–May 31 2016

Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 13,639,857
Investments	\$ 2,923,522
Note receivable	\$ 7,000,000
Grants receivable, net	\$ 19,195,656
<hr/>	
Total Assets	\$ 42,759,035

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 9,156
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Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$ 23,554,223
Temporarily restricted	\$ 19,195,656

Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 42,759,035
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Statement of Activities 2016

Expenses



Program expenses	\$ 2,523,401
Management	\$ 158,260
Fundraising	\$ 6,101

Total Expenses **\$ 2,687,762**

Support & Revenue

Contributions unrestricted	\$ 8,035,880
Contributions temporarily restricted	\$ (4,603,926)
Total Income	\$ 3,431,954

Change in Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$ 5,498,118
Temporarily restricted	\$ (4,753,926)

Change in Net Assets

Net assets, beginning of year	\$ 42,155,687
Net assets, end of year	\$ 42,749,879

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We are
the **Drug
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Alliance.**