

A Year in Review

2020

Annual Impact Report

To our community,

The team at Public Rights Project remains committed to the over 35 million workers and 40 million tenants who are feeling the life-altering effects of the pandemic. We are particularly moved by communities of color who, on top of the devastating health and economic impacts of COVID-19, faced threats to their public health and immigrants' rights, federal encroachment, voter suppression, and police brutality. We are working to ensure that the power of government is used to pursue justice, not sow division or perpetuate a legacy of racism and bigotry.

Our work has never been more critical.

The path ahead will be hard, but we see reasons for hope. In partnership, we will work at all levels of government and in communities across the country to demand that the law is used to protect and uplift those who the government has historically disenfranchised.

In this report, we share more about our impact in 2020 and express our deepest gratitude to the entire Public Rights Project network for making our work to protect civil rights and advance racial and economic justice possible.

What's Inside

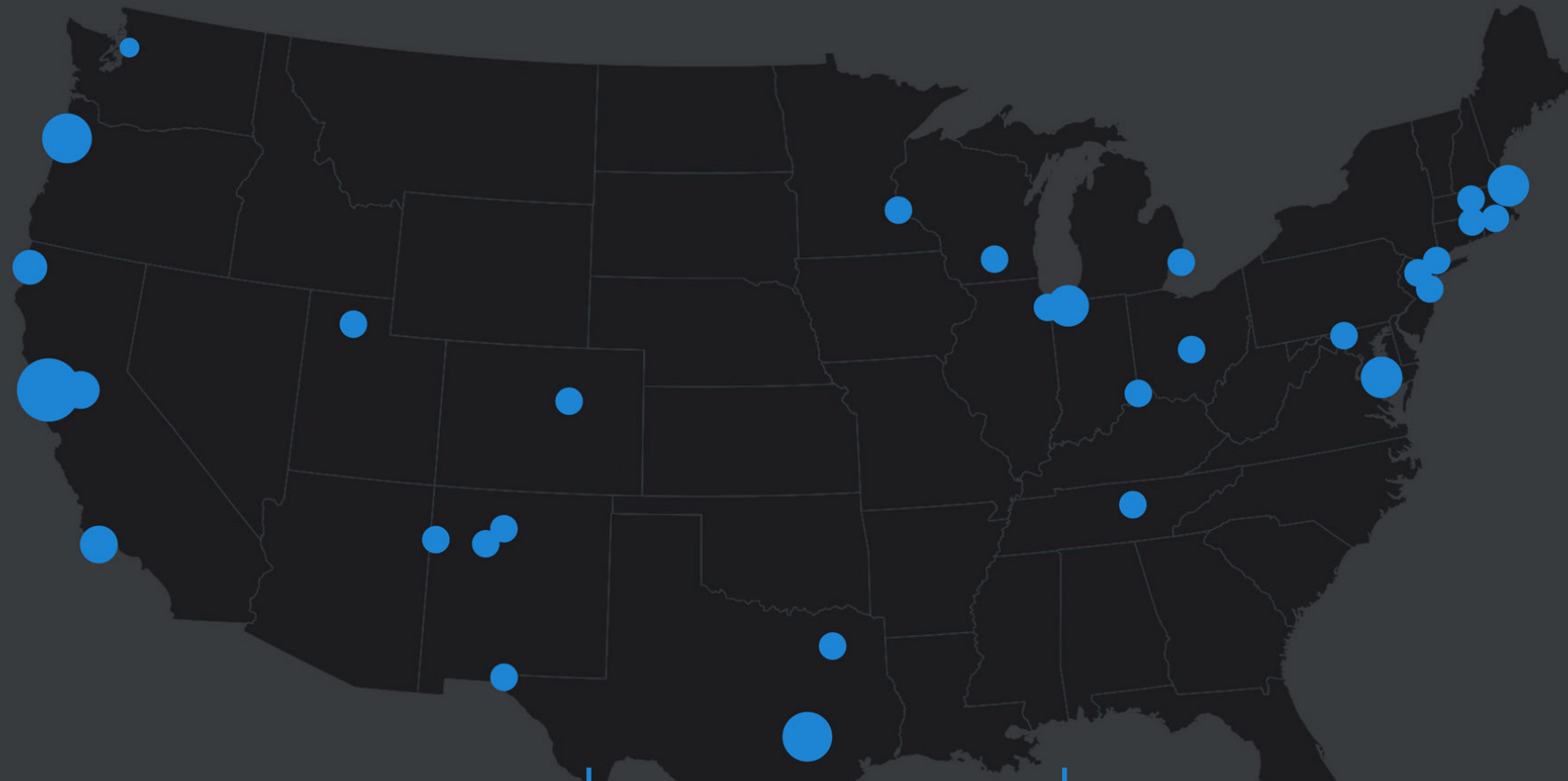
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64

**GOVERNMENT
PARTNERS**

24

**STATES
SERVED**

52%

**INCREASE IN
PARTNERS**

The Public Rights Project network now consists of 64 government partners in 24 states, representing a 52% increase in partners since 2019.

2020 Fast Facts



25

AMICUS BRIEFS

Joined by more than 500 parties, with court victories in 75% of cases

19

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

12 favorable results & \$8 million in relief recovered

30

NEWS STORY FEATURES

A New York Times profile & an op-ed co-authored with State AGs

455

WORKERS & TENANTS

Shared their stories about being harmed by corporate abuse

70+

EVICCTIONS BLOCKED

Stopped more than 70 unlawful evictions during the pandemic

45 talented attorneys joined our Fellowship programs

Public Rights Project Fellows

80%

IDENTIFY AS
PEOPLE OF COLOR

70%

IDENTIFY AS
WOMEN

Affirmative Leaders Fellows

37%

IDENTIFY AS
PEOPLE OF COLOR

63%

IDENTIFY AS
WOMEN

75+

HOURS OF IMPACTFUL
ONLINE PROGRAMMING

Covering professional development,
case generation & in-depth subject
matter exploration



“The [Affirmative Leaders] Fellowship has really opened my eyes to different ways of identifying and framing cases to help my city’s residents.”

Anthony Edwards, St. Paul City Attorney’s Office



Lucas Jackson/Reuters



5x

**MORE AMICUS
BRIEFS FILED
THAN IN 2019**

The briefs we work on with our government partners are often the first step for local governments to begin doing proactive legal advocacy on behalf of their residents.

Public Rights Project staff filed 18 amicus briefs in 2020.

For example, we organized a Supreme Court brief to protect LGBTQ people from discrimination under federal law joined by 94 local governments and Mayors. The Supreme Court agreed with our arguments—a crucial victory for LGBTQ equality.

2020

Areas of Focus

Together with our network of state, local, and tribal government partners, community partners, and supporters, we focused our efforts across the country in four critical areas.



Workers' Rights



Housing



Public Health & Immigrant Rights



Election Integrity & Federal Encroachment



Workers' Rights

“I am replaceable to the company for a very insignificant amount of money. I could’ve been exposed [to COVID], and if something were to happen to me and it went south, my death would be of no concern to the company. I don’t wanna work for a company who thinks of me like that, but I also know I need to keep going as much as I can.”

Ethan, Instacart worker (interviewed July 16, 2020)



The New York Times

CLEANERS DEMAND HARASSMENT SAFEGUARDS FROM THE BOOKING SERVICE HANDY

JULY 29, 2020

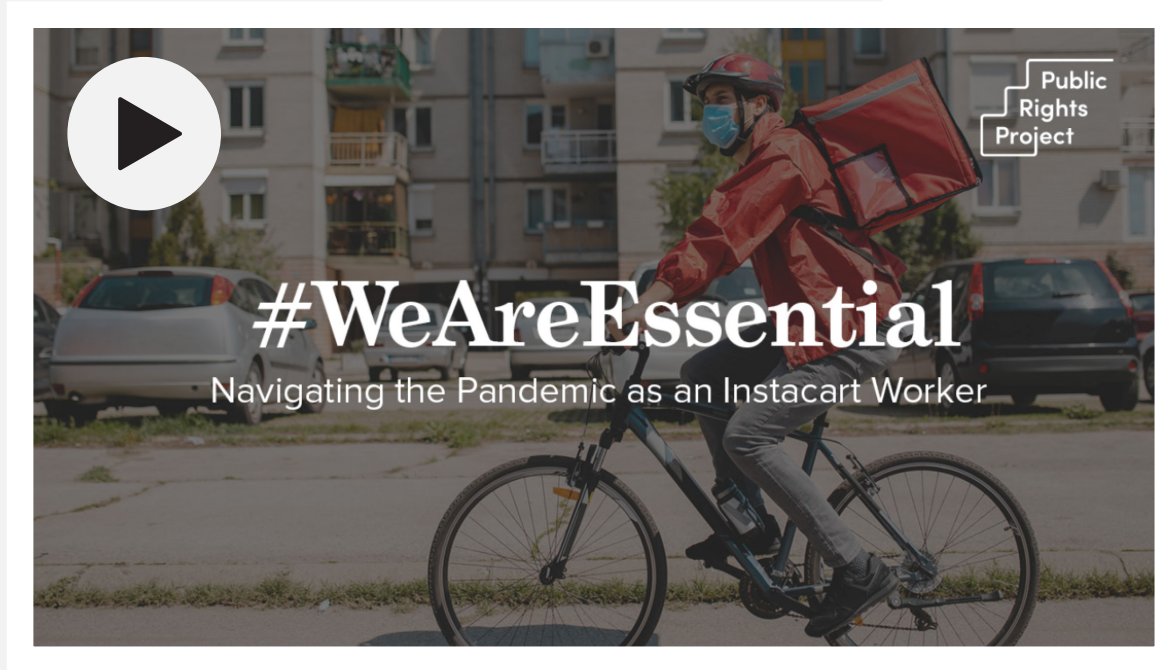
We filed an administrative action to fight for the rights of domestic workers at the company Handy, who had been sexually harassed or assaulted on the job. The New York Times profiled our work.

Jenny Montoya Tansey,
Policy Director, Public Rights Project

Photo: Jim Wilson/The New York Times



#WeAreEssential



As we continued our work to enforce CA’s landmark workers’ rights law, we heard more and more gut-wrenching personal stories from gig workers on the struggles they faced navigating their jobs during the pandemic with little to no support from their employers.

We launched “**WeAreEssential**”, a compelling and powerful workers’ rights advocacy campaign, to share the experiences of Instacart workers navigating the pandemic and continue the fight for economic justice.



#WeAreEssential



1 in 4

INSTACART WORKERS said they don't have any form of health coverage.



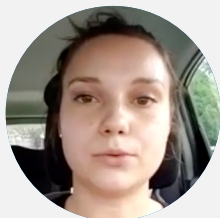
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INSTACART WORKERS said they paid for all their PPE themselves.



50%

OF INSTACART WORKERS have a health condition that would put them at high risk if they got COVID-19, or live with someone else who does.



“I don't think people realize that they're kind of renting our lungs to go to the grocery store.”

Annaya, on working on Instacart in the time of COVID-19



We convened over 250 people to catalyze new equitable enforcement, including:

75

GOVERNMENT PARTNER ATTENDEES

from across the country to proactively protect the rights of the most vulnerable frontline workers at the onset of COVID-19.

70+

LABOR, WORKER, ORGANIZER, AND GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

to create a game plan to enforce California's AB-5 legislation.

65

PROFESSIONALS AND ACADEMICS

to discuss opportunities to better measure the impact of workers' rights enforcement cases.





Housing

“I feel very grateful and so lucky to have a lot of support for this work. It’s really special to help secure a result like this for tenants so soon into the fellowship!”

Rajiv Narayan, Fellow, Public Rights Project



OAKLAND CITY ATTORNEY LAUNCHES HOUSING JUSTICE INITIATIVE AND KNOW YOUR RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

OCT. 22, 2020

We partnered with the Oakland City Attorney to launch their new Housing Justice Initiative to reach marginalized tenants. Our fellow stopped a landlord from removing all of their tenants' belongings and illegally evicting them during COVID-19.

The Boston Globe

IN MASS., DOZENS OF ILLEGAL EVICTIONS ATTEMPTED, DESPITE PANDEMIC MORATORIUMS, HEALEY SAYS

MAY. 14, 2020

Our MA fellow saved more than 60 tenants and their families from unlawful evictions.



FEB. 6, 2020

CITY SUES "INVEST & NEGLECT" SPECULATORS AND SLUMLORDS THAT PUT CHILDREN AT RISK OF LEAD POISONING

Our Detroit fellow brought a lawsuit against 3 of the biggest property owners in the city who own more than 1,000 blighted properties to address long-standing fraud and misconduct.

The Boston Globe

JULY. 29, 2020

AS MASS. EVICTION BAN HEADS TO COURT, IT'S ATTRACTING ATTENTION NATIONWIDE

We partnered with the City of Chicago to successfully defend eviction moratoriums in Los Angeles, Massachusetts, and Washington.



Our Oakland fellow obtained a court order to take control of a multi-unit apartment building after years of the landlords' neglect and harassment of the tenants, including multiple fires and leaving them without power for extended periods of time.



“This will send a strong message to the community that we are holding landlords like this accountable and we are watching out for the tenants of Oakland.”

Callie Wilson, PRP Fellow, Oakland City Attorney's Office



Public Health & Immigrant Rights

“My mother immigrated to the United States from the Dominican Republic in 1975. She worked the majority of my childhood until the factory laid [her off], and she needed help in the form of government benefits. Someone in [my mother’s] position could have been denied the opportunity to continue living in this country had the United States had the Public Charge rule in place. So being able to challenge this rule and hopefully put a stop to its implementation is very important to me. Personally.”

David Ureña, Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office



Charles Edward Miller/Creative Commons

The Guardian

DEC. 10, 2019

US IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS BAR DOCTORS FROM GIVING FLU SHOTS TO DETAINED KIDS

We served as co-counsel with the LA County Counsel to demand that the Trump Administration provide flu vaccinations to children in immigrant detention facilities.

Chicago Tribune

COOK COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY KIM FOXX AND ACTIVISTS SUE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION OVER PROPOSED IMMIGRATION RULES THAT COULD HURT LOCAL HEALTH SYSTEM

SEP 24, 2019

Our Cook County fellow worked with community groups to obtain a final court judgment striking down the Trump Administration's public charge rule. The rule threatens public health and safety by further undermining immigrant trust in government.





Election Integrity & Federal Encroachment

Quote from the court's decision referencing our amicus brief:

“The fact that ... various local and tribal governments have asked this Court to intervene to prevent the Postal Service and others from disenfranchising citizens from participating in federal, state, and local elections suggest that the Postal Service’s actions are not the result of any legitimate business concerns.”

Washington v. Trump - Eastern District of Washington



Nathan Howard/Getty Images

We filed our first lawsuit representing Oakland and Portland to challenge the deployment of federal agents and forced deputation of Portland police officers.



We convened over 50 government partner attendees from across the country to ensure access to the right to vote and protect the integrity of the November election.



We joined a group of national advocates focused on election integrity. We filed briefs with the County of Santa Clara on behalf of 32 local governments supporting successful challenges to the U.S. Postal Service’s policy changes.



Lauren Justice/New York Times

Our Wisconsin fellow successfully defended state election officials in several cases seeking to overturn the outcome of the Presidential election.



Thank You to Our Board, Donors and Partners

“You all are doing outstanding work; I’m proud to be associated with you in any way.”

Daniel Winik, Donor

Our Board

Our work is not possible without the steadfast commitment of our board and supporters. We thank you for coming together and investing in a network of rights protectors throughout the country.

Your commitment helps to ensure Public Rights Project continues to strive to make economic justice and racial equity a reality for our nation.

Public Rights Project Board



Heather Gerken

Dean, Yale Law School



Brian Nelson

General Counsel,
LA2028 Olympic Committee



Peter Harvey

Partner, Patterson Belknap
Webb & Taylor LLP;
Former Attorney General,
New Jersey



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Draper Richards Kaplan
Foundation



Swati Mylavarapu

Founder, Incite.org;
Co-Founder, The Arena



Ken Zimmerman

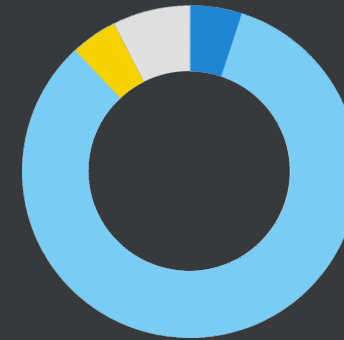
Dist. Fellow, NYU Furman
Center; Adjunct Asst. Prof. of
Urban Planning, NYU Wagner
Grad. School of Public Service

2020 Financials

Over the last three years, Public Rights Project has experienced significant financial growth as we respond to urgent and growing demand across the country. We have grown from an approximately \$750,000 budget in 2018 to a projected 2021 operating budget of \$4 million. And we are just getting started.

These charts represent the revenue/expense breakdown for 2020 operational activities.

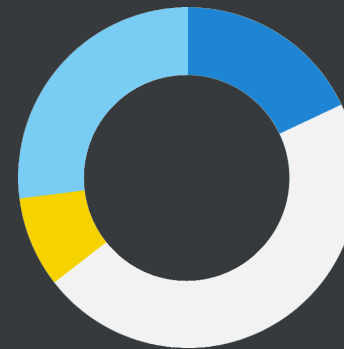
We are grateful to our entire team of board, staff, donors, partners, and supporters for their steadfast support of our growth.



REVENUES

\$3.3m

- Corporate: 4.5%
- Earned Revenue: 7.5%
- Individual: 5%
- Foundations: 83%



EXPENSES

\$2.23m

- Community Outreach & Research: 8.5%
- Fellowship Programs: 46.5%
- General Operating Expenses: 18%
- Legal and Policy Advocacy: 27%

We also maintain a reserve fund to ensure the sustainability of our multi-year Fellowship Programs.

Donors

Thank you to the 298 individual donors who have graciously continued to support our work since our founding. We extend a very special thank you to the following generous individuals who have donated gifts of \$5,000 and greater.

To make a donation or share the opportunity with a friend please visit:
www.publicrightsproject.org/donate

Donors who have contributed \$5,000 and greater

Anonymous

Leslie & Brian Baker

Quinn Delaney & Wayne Jordan

Kelly Dermody & Billie Mizell

Nancy & Doug Habig

Chris Hughes

Chris McCoy & Ciara Viehweg

Swati Mylavarapu & Matt Rogers

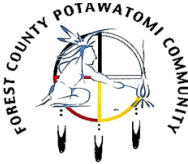
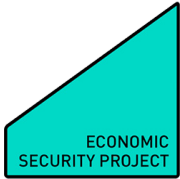
David Nierenberg

Juan Rodriguez

David Roe

Partners

Public Rights Project is proud to have the support of the following partners:



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Thank you for taking the time to read this report.

We envision a day when there is no gap between the values expressed in our laws and the lived reality of our most vulnerable communities. Since 2017, we've been the only national organization working at the intersection of community organizing and state, local, and tribal government enforcement. We're more committed than ever to building a scalable and equitable community-based enforcement model to protect people's rights. In 2021, we will continue to fight on behalf of working people and their families, promote racial justice, and grow the demand for equitable enforcement to protect our rights as workers, tenants, consumers and community residents at scale.

We are grateful to our network for your outpouring of ideas and inspiration, and we invite your continued generous support to ensure communities receive the help they need.

There's no better time than now.

With gratitude,

Jill Habig

Founder, Public Rights Project



www.publicrightsproject.org