ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

MAINE IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS COALITION

A YEAR IN REVIEW

Letter from the Executive Director

Maine is currently facing multiple crises; asylum seekers arriving from the southern borders in numbers never seen before, refugee resettlement, and the COVID-19 pandemic — overwhelming our already stretched immigrant integration services. Throughout this pandemic we have seen - time and time again - the structural and institutional barriers that deprive our communities from equitable access to culturally appropriate services. This MIRC led ethnic collaborative program, aimed at addressing these needs while strengthening our overall mission - of informing, advocacy, and collaboration - is systemically helping to break down these barriers in Maine and expanding the grassroots cultural linguistically appropriate social services support systems and infrastructure for new motel shelters.

Achievements, Biggest Challenges, and Lessons Learned
Throughout 2021 our goals and work kept changing from the time cases of the coronavirus were detected in our state in March of 2020. MIRC has played a key role in COVID-19 relief efforts collaborating with community organizations that have worked tirelessly to provide critical services including cultural brokering, quarantine support, food assistance, protective supplies, and educational support. MIRC was also able to support the emergency needs of recent asylum seekers and unaccompanied minors like expenses for prescription glasses, cell phone recharge costs, laundry services, ethnic food, and bus passes.
Due to a continued partnership with Bates College, MIRC hired four summer interns - who helped take on a summer project of researching disparities surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. MIRC has been tracking the data by race and ethnicity since April 2020. While Black Mainers make up only 1.6% of the state's population, they account for almost 25% of Maine's positive cases.. As for vaccinations there was increased percentage across all race - Black/African American, Native American, and Asian/Pacific Islander, Hispanic/Latino.- communities.

Supporting Ethnic Community Based Organizations
MIRC received a generous donations from from private Foundation for technical support of immigrant community organizations and to support the hiring of a finance and operations manager. This position has increased internal capacity and as result, we have begun to strengthen internal controls for MIRC and ILOS that minimize opportunities for fraud, waste, and mismanagement especially internal controls over cash disbursements during a Pandemic. The coalition now has a social media following of over 3,000 and grew with over 10 member and partner organizations.

Advocacy
MIRC has also been a driving force in advocating for racial justice and for the needs of communities of color. Our top 2021 advocacy issues were on federal policies on asylum seekers' immigration rules and fees and COVID19 and Vaccine related emergency needs and funding. Our priority affirmative bills signed into law were are LDs 2, 149, 1684,1533, 50, and 1664. Two defensive bills voted out not to pass and killed were LDs 107 and 1340.

Looking Forward Post Pandemic
Our work collectively now serves the needs of Maine immigrants, 87 member organizations, our partners, staff, volunteers, and the board of directors. Our current emergency response referral system has continued through 2022, but we intend to use this system for none COVID direct service work.
MIRC has "developed an exemplary reputation for working effectively with a wide range of organizations that serve immigrants—from large social service, government, and health agencies to small, one-person programs operated in urban and rural communities throughout Maine."
In the months ahead, MIRC will be focusing on stabilizing and working to ensure that the funding continues right down to our grassroots organizations. We want to strengthen and continue the creative and effective collaborations that have been established.

We are also concentrating on developing more efficient internal systems. We hope to buy software to help coordinate and manage our member organizations, social service referral system, and for our advocacy work, There remains a need for continued state investment in communities that have historically been economically challenged. We want to strengthen the current collective referral model and service delivery approach because it has been highly impactful and helped develop mutual work respect among ECBOs specifically, with smaller ones fiscally sponsored by MIRC, who may not have had an opportunity to compete for funding.

MIRC continues translating both non and COVID19 Vaccine related and information into17 primary and secondary community languages: Spanish, Portuguese, French, Lingala, Arabic, Somali, Vietnamese, Russian, Hindi, Farsi, Telugu, Dari, Khmer, Serbo-Croatian, Azerbaijani, Pashto, and Japanese.

People in our communities are now more open to receiving culturally and linguistically appropriate services from trusted members of their community.

Mufalo Chitam
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEADERSHIP

Board of Directors

Officers

President:
Hermeet Kohli
University of Southern Maine/ Gateway Community Services

Vice-President:
Hannah DeAngelis
CCM - Refugee and Immigration Services

Treasurer:
John Messer
Retired

Secretary:
Vacant

Members At-Large

Deborah Ibonwa, Esq.
Maine Equal Justice

Sarah Lewis
Maine Access Immigrant Network

Dina Yacoubagha
Islamic Center of Maine

Apollinaire Munyaneza
Portland High School

Randi Greenwald
Congregation Bet Ha'am

Kevin Damboise
Real Estate Agent

Danica "Rose" Barboza
Black Owned Maine

Charles "Val" Carnegie
Jamaican/Bahai Faith Communities

Theary Ryder
Khmer Maine

Staff

Executive Director
Mufalo Chitam

Development and Relations Manager
Fatima Saidi

Manager of Programs and Community Engagement
Madeleine Saucier

Operations and Finance Manager
Kiri Stroh

Advocacy Manager
Tobin Williamson

Special Projects Associate
Olivia Skillings

MEMBERSHIP

Members

ACLU of Maine

Action for Life - Maine

Afghan Community of Maine

African Women and Development

AK Health and Social Services

Al Badoo Community Association of Maine

Angolan Community of Maine

Aspire For Humanity Initiatives

Baha'i Community and Organic Change

Black Owned Maine

Boundless MEdia

Burundian Community Association of Maine

Khmer Maine

Capital Area New Mainers Project

Catholic Charities of Maine's Refugee and Immigration Services

Choose Yourself

City of Portland - Minority Health Program

Coastal Enterprises, Inc.

Congolese Brazzaville Community of Maine

Congolese Community of Maine

Congregation Bet Ha'am - Tikkun Olam Council

Cross Cultural Consulting Group

Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic, Refugee and Human Rights

Djibouti Community and Volunteer Services

Empower Immigrant Women

ETHICS

First Parish UU Church

Frannie Peabody Center

Furniture Friends

Gateway Community Service

Greater Portland Family Promise

Hispanic Ministry - Portland Diocese

Hope Acts

Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project

Immigrant Resource Center of Maine

IN HER PRESENCE

Iraqi Community Association of Maine

Jewish Action Maine

Ladder to the Moon Network

Latinx Family Wellness & Recreation

Light Mission Church

Mahoro Maine Association

Maine Access Immigrant Network

Maine Association for New Americans

Maine Business Immigration Coalition

Maine Citizens for Clean Elections - LWV

Maine Community Integration

Maine Council of Churches

Maine Equal Justice

Maine Immigrant & Refugee Services

Maine Mobile Health Program

Maine Multicultural Center

Maine People's Alliance

Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network

Maine Women's Lobby / Maine Women's Policy Center

Mano en Mano / Hand in Hand

NAACP

Network & Scholarships for Maine Immigrants Org

New England Djibouti Community

New Mainer Tenants Association

MidCoast New Mainers Group

New Mainers Alliance PAC

New Mainers Resource Center - Portland Adult Education

New England African Art & Entertainment Community Association

Office of Maine Refugee Services-CCM

Portland Empowered

Portland Friends Meeting

Preble Street

Presente! Maine

Prosperity Maine

Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland

Rwandese Community Association of Maine

Somali Bantu Community Association

Somali Community Center of Maine

South Sudanese Community Association of Maine

Southern Maine Workers Center

Sudanese Roots

Unified Asian Communities

Welcoming Immigrant Neighbors - Bangor

Welcoming Immigrants Network

Welcoming Immigrants, Our New Neighbors

Welcoming the Stranger

YMCA of Southern Maine

YWCA Central Maine

MISSION & VISION

Mission

The mission of Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition is to improve the legal, social and economic conditions experienced by Maine's immigrants – enhancing their lives while strengthening Maine – through advocacy, information sharing and collaboration both through and among our member organizations.

MIRC is the convener of a unique, statewide network of 85 organizations, a majority of which are led by people of color – representing diverse ethnic communities across our state. All coalition member organizations are working to create and support programs and policies that promote immigrant inclusion and integration.

ADVOCATE

MIRC IS ADVANCING SYSTEMIC CHANGE AND EQUITY IN MAINE THROUGH COLLABORATIVE ADVOCACY FOR POLICY DEVELOPMENT AT STATE AND CITY LEVELS TO ENSURE THAT IMMIGRANTS' VOICES ARE HEARD WHEN ISSUES IMPACTING THEIR DAILY LIVES AND ECONOMIC INTEGRATION COME BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE.

COLLABORATE

OUR ORGANIZATION VALUES COLLABORATION AND THE SHARED SENSE OF PURPOSE THAT EXISTS AMONG COALITION MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS. MIRC IS SUCCESSFUL WHEN MEMBERS COLLABORATE TO ACHIEVE POLICY OBJECTIVES THAT IMPROVE THE LIVES OF IMMIGRANTS IN MAINE.

INFORM

WE AIM TO BE A RESOURCE OF IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR OUR COMMUNITY. THE MAINE IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS COALITION ECOSYSTEM MAP IS A MAP OF ALL THE ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE SUPPORTING IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN MAINE.

POLICY & ADVOCACY

Policy Priorities

MIRC's roots are as a policy & advocacy organization, and that is a proud tradition we continue to this day. We work on these issues at all levels of government: Local, State, and Federal.

At the local level, as with so much of our other work, our priorities have been focused on new arrivals to the Portland area, specifically coordinating services like housing and healthcare.

At the state level, we tracked over three dozen bills this legislative session and identified four specific areas of focus: Housing; Racial Justice & Equity; Workforce Development & Education; and Health & Healthcare. More work remains to be done, but some successes were achieved.

At the federal level, we continue to advocate for a number of immigration policy reforms.

Highlights

One big highlight is that we now have a staff member who focuses on Policy & Advocacy issues! Tobin Williamson joined MIRC in January 2022 as its new Advocacy Manager.

Tobin & Mufalo both submitted many testimonies on behalf of Maine's immigrant communities for legislation proposed at both the State Legislature and municipal City Councils. We have also made great connections with staff members from all four of Maine's U.S. Congressional Offices.

We have strengthened relationships with national advocacy organizations such as the National Partnership for New Americans, Protecting Immigrant Families, and Value Our Families.

MIRC is a true coalition, and we have received valuable contributions from our members and partners in convening regular meetings such as MIRC's Policy Committee, the Asylum Seekers' Working Group, and ASWG Logistics Meeting.

PROGRAMS

Emergency Response

Much of MIRC's programming has been responding to emergent and timely issues on the ground as we react to the issues and needs on the ground as reported by our member coalition. MIRC takes an active roll in responding to the changing needs on the ground as they relate to our mission and convening our coalition members to proactively coordinate, collaborate, and enhance services to immigrants. A couple of the sub-programs under arm of programming are highlighted below, but this is our fastest growing arm of programming, with new initiatives on the horizon for 2022.

Adopt A Family

The Adopt A Family program was designed to engage our community in support of newly arriving families to our state. Community support was a crucial element during the Expo, and we wanted to re-engage with those same networks. In the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, we paired families with community members 'virtually' and encouraged letters over the holidays, messaging via WhatsApp and contributions of gift cards, laundry coins, phone cards, and bus tickets. The community response was amazing! Over 140 individuals or community/church groups signed on to be paired with a family and the MIRC team distributed thousands of dollars worth of gift cards and other supports to asylum seeking families.

Meal Program

In the fall of 2021, MIRC launched a collaborative and culturally appropriate food program in response to the growing number of asylum seekers arriving in Portland and sheltering in hotels and motels without individual or communal kitchens. In collaboration with the Congolese and Angolan Communities of Maine, MIRC staff, contracted chefs and volunteers prepare and distribute over 8,000 meals each month to families and individuals facing food insecurity and hunger. We aim to provide nutritious, familiar and comforting dinners, six nights per week, rooted in Angolan and Congolese cooking traditions.

PROGRAMS

MIRC/DHHS Covid Social Support Referral System

Throughout 2021, MIRC collaborated with Catholic Charities Maine and the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to establish the Community Care for Covid-19 Referral Form. The referral system provides aid to community members who are quarantining due to a positive test result or direct exposure to COVID-19 with social services (e.g. rental assistance or food) to support them and their families during the isolation period. MIRC works with a group of Ethnic-Based Community Organizations (ECBOs) to provide social services to individuals of color, immigrants, and/or people whose preferred language is not English. In 2021, over 5,734 households came through the DHHS Community Care referral system representing 18,007 individuals.

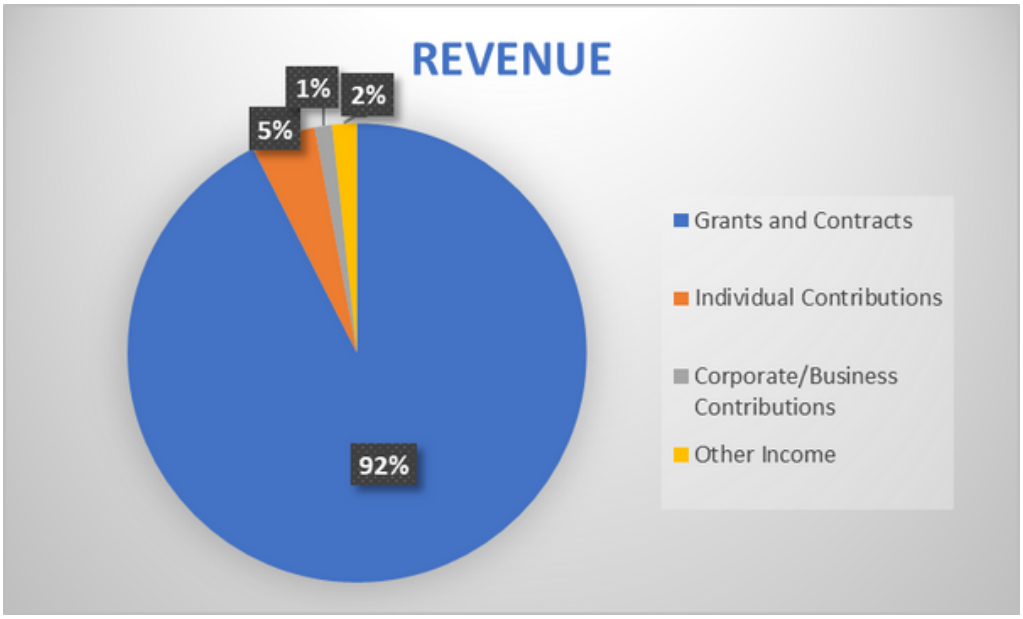
Member Support Programs

MIRC has been providing member support services for some time now, including providing fiscal sponsorship to our growing number of Ethnic Community Based organziations represented in our membership. We have also been supporting our members financially through the State contracting process, allowing small nonprofits to access critical government funding that they would otherwise not be able to meet the criteria for through the application process.

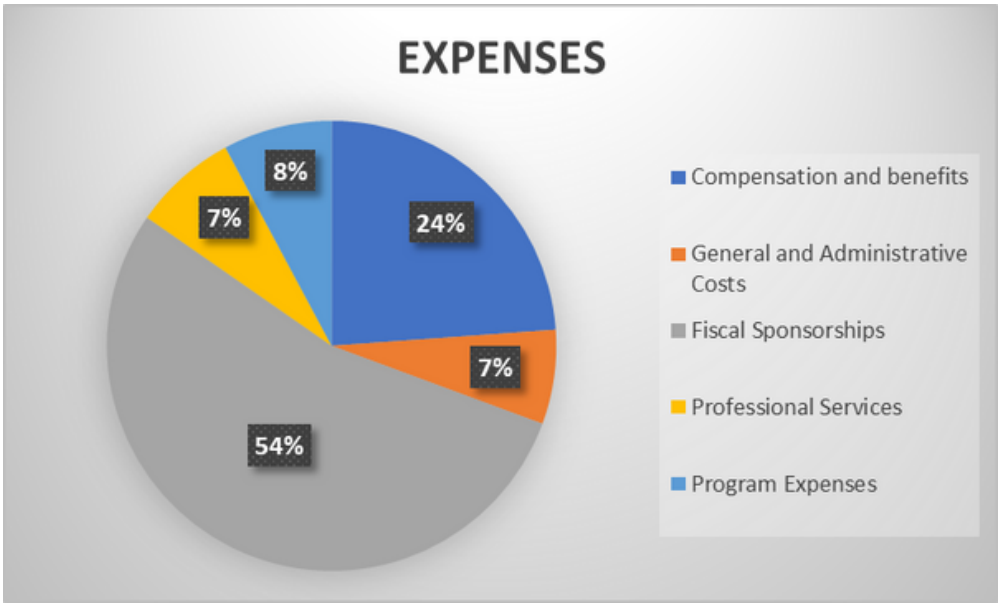
With the hiring our our Finance and Operations Manager in late 2021, and the reconfiguration of current staff structure and responsibilities, we are poised to take this program even farther. In 2022, steps are already under way to assess our ECBO needs and enhance our array of services offerings to support their missions. MIRC's capacity building plan is in development and will harness the State of Maine's new funding mechanisms to enhance ECBO capacity and programming to empower small nonprofits with little infrastructure to further meet the needs of their own communities.

FINANCIALS - FY2021

TOTAL REVENUE: $1,390,167.07



TOTAL EXPENSES: $1,048,910.54



FINANCIALS - FY2021

BALANCE SHEET FY 2021

MAINE IMMIGRANTS RIGHTS COALITION

Balance Sheet Comparison

As of December 31, 2021

	TOTAL	
	AS OF DEC 31, 2021	AS OF DEC 31, 2020 (PY)
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts	**$708,679.10**	**$586,827.54**
Accounts Receivable	**$203,626.63**	**$41,534.53**
Other Current Assets	**$35,133.00**	**$1,314.92**
Total Current Assets	**$947,438.73**	**$629,676.99**
Other Assets	**$1,500.00**	**$1,500.00**
TOTAL ASSETS	**$948,938.73**	**$631,176.99**
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	**$8,924.04**	**$32,901.12**
Other Current Liabilities	**$404.37**	**$0.00**
Total Current Liabilities	**$9,328.41**	**$32,901.12**
Total Liabilities	**$9,328.41**	**$32,901.12**
Equity		
Change in net assets	0.00	-479,171.49
Net assets		
Temporarily restricted	286,092.00	324,687.00
Unrestricted net assets	312,183.87	273,588.87
Total Net assets	**598,275.87**	**598,275.87**
Net Income	341,334.45	479,171.49
Total Equity	**$939,610.32**	**$598,275.87**
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	**$948,938.73**	**$631,176.99**

MIRC's FY21 Financials are currently in the financial review process and final, audited reports can be made available upon request once complete.

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS

MAINE IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS COALITION

Betterment Fund

Bonnie Rukin

Braitmayer Foundation

Carol Rohl & Gordon Bok

Catholic Charities of Maine

Congregational Church in Cumberland

Craig Bramley

Elizabeth McClenahar

Elmina B. Sewall Foundation

Estelle Margones

Farris Foundation

Fidelity Charitable

Good Shepherd Food Bank of Maine

Hope Acts

Jane Makela

Jebediah Foundation

Jennifer Melville

John T. Gorman Foundation

Larry LaClair

Lowell Turnbull & Randi Greenwald

Maine Community Foundation

Maine Health Access Foundation

Maine Initiatives

Michael Beaudoin

Network For Good

Peter Titcomb

Preble Street

R. M. Davis

S. Noel Jost-Coq

Tenley Harrison

The Episcopal Church of Saint Mary General Fund

The Jackson Laboratory

Town Fair Tire Foundation

Tufts Health Plan Foundation

MIRC funders who contrinuted more that $500 in FY 2021