FPWA Annual Report 2021



2 An Equitable Recovery for All

An Equitable Recovery for All

We're at the end of another momentous year and our fight for economic equity has never been more urgent. As recovery from the pandemic begins, we're committed to doing whatever it takes to make sure we don't fall back on the status quo where New Yorkers with low incomes, especially people of color, are consigned to an economic underclass.

Our latest investigative report, Pushed to the Precipice, is but the latest example of our leadership in the fight to end poverty—it's a natural successor to our 2018 landmark report, Ending the Poverty to Prison Pipeline report. Both policy reports ask why our systems don't work. They reveal how prejudice and injustice flow through these systems, and how someone inside these systems can be held back from achieving economic equity. The report shined a bright light on the underlying biases inherent in the social safety net and how existing measures systemically undercount many people living in poverty, effectively keeping people from selfsufficiency because of benefits cliffs and gaps when it is supposed to be helping them reach economic stability. It makes the case for a oncein-a-generation opportunity to redesign the benefits system so that it lives up to its promise as a pathway to economic stability.

Intil we are able to say that all New Yorkers have or can access what they need to be self-sufficient without penalty, we cannot claim that we have a safety net system that is fair, just and equitable.

- Jennifer Jones Austin, CEO and Executive Director

As COVID continued in 2021, low-income communities continued to struggle twice as hard because they had fewer resources in hand as the pandemic ran roughshod over every aspect of life. The unsung heroes who helped communities survive the COVID-19 pandemic were the people working at human services nonprofits. They kept the doors open to support their neighbors and communities during the most difficult days and beyond. They continued in this pivotal role through 2021 as low income Black, Latinx, Asian, and immigrant communities continued to be disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

Rising to meet this city-wide challenge resulted in millions of dollars of unanticipated expenses for nonprofits. This was on top of years of chronic underfunding by the government for contracted community supports and programs that keep New Yorkers housed, fed, healthy, safe, and on a path to economic stability. FPWA joined with other nonprofits and community leaders to secure over \$218 million for a fully funded and sustainable indirect cost rate, restoration of funds for those providing essential services and one-time COVID-related bonuses for those essential workers who met the needs of our city's hardest hit communities.

And when it was clear that the very same communities were getting vaccinated at much lower rates, FPWA sprang into action. We advocated for greater access to the vaccine in Black communities, then launched a groundbreaking outreach and education effort with trusted community leaders. We understood that these communities needed accurate information that answered their specific concerns around the vaccine—concerns rooted in a history of mistrust and abuse from the medical establishment. In July, New York State recognized FPWA's work by awarding us \$5.5 million to undertake the Roll Up Your Sleeves campaign, a statewide effort to address health inequity through statewide vaccine education, access, and outreach in Black and Brown communities.

FPWA is about to turn 100 years old in 2022. One thing we've learned from our 100-year history is that tinkering at the edges will not bend the curve towards justice and equity. Through major initiatives in 2021, we kept our focus on addressing the roots of inequity, including systemic racism, and supporting the human service organizations critical to improving the lives of New Yorkers. This work will continue in 2022. As we celebrate FPWA's centennial in 2022, we'll need your help

as we continue doing what we have always done-lead the way.

We thank you for your support and partnership and hope you will stand with us again as we turn 100 years old.

SIGN UP FOR OUR EMAILS AT fpwa.org

Snapshot 2021

\$120 million

secured from NYC to fully fund human services organizations' critical operational costs

\$24 million

secured to pay bonuses

to human services workers in recognition of their frontline role in responding to the COVID pandemic

\$5.5 million

awarded by NYS to provide COVID vaccine outreach and education to combat vaccine hesitancy

\$2 million

secured from NYC to fund scholarships for human services workers as they work to advance their careers

Over 36,000

visitors to FPWA's website with nearly 86% new visitors

982

individuals participated in FPWA leadership and skills training

MANY PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT THE SOCIAL SAFETY NET PROVIDES FOR THOSE WHO FALL ON HARD TIMES OR TEMPORARILY NEED ASSISTANCE.

The reality is more complicated. While the benefits system does help people in financial crisis, it is often stacked against them when it comes to getting on the path to economic security. Underpinning the reason why is our criminalization of poverty and racism.

Our research report Pushed to the Precipice: How Benefits Cliffs and Financial Gaps Undermine the Safety Net for New Yorkers explored how a benefits system that is supposedly intended to help people move out of economic crisis can instead keep them there.

The best-known example is the "cliff effect," which happens when someone receiving benefits earns even a modest amount more in income and leads to a loss of benefits. The loss is greater than the increase in income, leaving families seeking to advance their economic stability with absurd choices.

Cliffs aren't the only obstacle. We identified various financial gaps in the system that can also keep people in perpetual poverty, including eligibility, hardship, and coverage gaps. We found all three present in a program known as TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), which ironically targets individuals and families in

deep poverty. TANF's design and stated goals are explicitly rooted in racism and racist troupes about people of color, particularly Black women. This year we've begun studying how flaws in TANF keep people from accessing benefits and prevent them from achieving economic mobility and ultimately stability. Look for our investigative report about the abuses within TANF in 2022, followed by a campaign to reform the program in New York state.

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How Benefits Cliffs and Financial Gaps Undermine the Safety Net for New Yorkers





FPWA

Advancing Equity and Justice

OUR LEGACY HAS ALWAYS FOCUSED ON ACHIEVING CHANGE that will advance economic equity for New Yorkers of lower income. This goal is even more critical as the city rebounds from the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic recession has been widely regarded as the most unequal in U.S. modern history, and it's demonstrably true in New York City for Black and brown communities and immigrants with lower incomes.

One way we responded was by leading and playing a supporting role in achieving significant wins in New York State's FY22 budget. They included \$2.1 billion to support the needs of thousands of New Yorkers who didn't receive COVID-19 funds because of their immigration status and \$2.4 billion for Emergency Rental Assistance.

The issues that have made recovery harder for some are not simply circumstantial. At our core, how we operate in our city institutions, the ways in which we allow or don't allow access to opportunity, even how we determine need—all of these prejudice some, but not others.

In 2021, FPWA's CEO and Executive Director was appointed to lead a special Racial Justice Commission to explore how New York City can become intentionally equitable in its workings and to recommend changes to the New York City Charter to ensure those changes happen. The Charter is our city's constitution, and changes to it are not subject to the vagaries of politics.

The opportunity to make real, structural change speaks directly to FPWA's anchoring in equity and justice. The Commission has convened a wide circle of thinkers from many different vantage points to advise on this effort and held dozens of open town hall

meetings throughout the city to hear from New Yorkers themselves. The resulting Commission report includes three ballot proposals that will be put before New York voters in November 2022: to add a statement of values to guide city government; to establish a racial equity office; and to measure the true cost of living. If passed, they will be the first of their kind in the nation.



- Grecovery from this crisis gives us an opportunity to center on economic equity for low-income people of color. Doing so is both a matter of economic vitality for our city and of racial justice.
 - Jennifer Jones Austin, CEO and Executive Director

THE UNSUNG HEROES OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC were the people working at human services nonprofits. They kept the doors open to support their neighbors and communities during the most difficult days and beyond. They continued in this pivotal role through 2021 as low income Black, Latinx, Asian, and immigrant communities continued to be disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

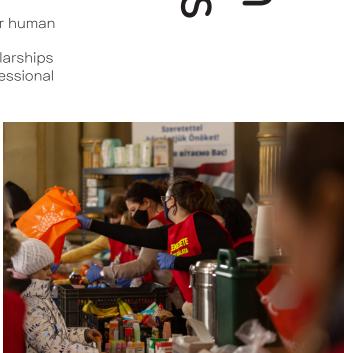
Rising to meet this city-wide challenge resulted in millions of dollars of unanticipated expenses for nonprofits. This was on top of years of chronic underfunding by the government for contracted community supports and programs that keep New Yorkers housed, fed, healthy, safe, and on a path to economic stability.

FPWA joined with other nonprofits and community leaders to make sure that city and state governments, the media, and our fellow New Yorkers didn't forget the resolute and professional human services staffs who helped the city pull through. They successfully made the case that human services organizations have always been and still are essential to the health and prosperity of our city.

We led and played a supporting role in notable wins in 2021 including:

- \$120 million for a fully funded and sustainable indirect cost rate for the human services sector to pay for operating costs.
- Restoration of \$74 million for nonprofit human services providers tasked with providing essential services, notably during the pandemic.
- \$24 million for one-time COVID-related bonuses for human services providers.
- A \$2 million investment in a pilot program for scholarships for human services workers to facilitate their professional advancement and wage growth.

FPWA has always fought for human services nonprofits so they can do their vital work with communities. When FPWA opened its doors in 1922, it was to provide a unified voice to the Protestant human service organizations working to respond to a surge in homeless children, especially Black and brown children who were dramatically underserved. We're still at it, constantly evolving as community needs change over time. We'll continue to bring our decades of successes, learnings, and influence to bear on behalf of human services nonprofits and the people they serve so that all New Yorkers can live with dignity, independence, and prosperity.





8 Rapid Response: COVID

Rapid Response: COVID

FPWA IS BEST KNOWN FOR its groundbreaking policy reports and effective advocacy work. What may be less well known is the role we've played over the decades when New York City has faced a crisis.

We mobilized to assist the most affected communities when the AIDS epidemic hit in the 1980's, after 9/11, in the wake of Superstorm Sandy, and most recently in 2020 when **COVID-19 was ravaging low-income communities** in our city.

In 2021, when it was announced that vaccines would be available, Jennifer Jones Austin, our CEO and Executive Director, joined with other Black Leaders in New York to quickly launch the Task Force for Vaccine Equity and Education. At the time, the per capita death rate for Black Americans was almost twice as high as the rate for white and Asian Americans. Ensuring that vaccines were readily available to Black New Yorkers literally meant the difference between life and death.

Within weeks, the task force joined with New York State to announce the Roll Up Your Sleeves (RUYS) campaign, and FPWA was awarded a \$5.5 million grant by the Governor of New York to design and launch a statewide grassroots outreach and education campaign to address vaccine hesitancy and uptake in communities with the lowest vaccination rates. We were chosen in part because of our successful Census 2020 campaign, in which we organized faith leaders and houses of worship in Black and brown historically-undercounted communities to raise aware-

ness about the census and get as many community members as possible counted.

Communications centered on providing accurate information about the vaccine while responding to understandable skepticism among Black communities—concerns rooted in a history of abuses from government and the medical establishment. In 2021, we reignited and expanded the network of trusted community leaders; we created the RUYS website, along with a digital toolkit offered in three languages; and we reached hundreds-of-thousands in identified communities across New York State. At the end of 2021, the campaign was ongoing and will carry into spring 2022.



COVID-19 TOOLKIT FOR BLACK COMMUNITIES

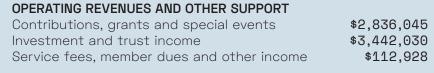


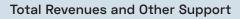


- ff [It's a] battle against misinformation, which seemed in moments to spread faster than information supported by data.
 - The Fortune Society, partner report

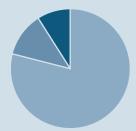
Statement of Activities







\$6,391,003



OPERATING EXPENSES

Program services	\$5,812,531
Management and general	\$917,479
Fund raising and development	\$632,951

Total Operating Expenses	\$7,362,961
Changes in Net Assets from Operations	\$(971,958)

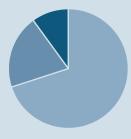
NON-OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Legacies, investments, trusts and pooled life fund \$8,870,754
Pension and post-retirement changes \$131,900

Changes in Total Net Assets \$9,002,654

NET ASSETS—BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$70,475,289
NET ASSETS—END OF YEAR	\$78,505,985

Statement of Financial Position



ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents and Investments	\$62,728,238
Interest in Perpetual trusts and pooled life fund	\$18,192,783
Property, equipment and other assets	\$9,018,454

Total Assets	\$89,939,475
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LIABILITIES \$11.433.4



NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$53,366,651
Temporarily Restricted	\$1,830,753
Permanently Restricted	\$23,308,581

Total Net Assets \$78,505,985

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS \$89,939,475

\$100,000-499,999

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Community Trust

\$50,000-99,999

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Through major initiatives in 2021, we kept our focus on addressing the roots of inequity, including systemic racism, and supporting the human service organizations critical to improving the lives of New Yorkers. This work will continue in 2022.

And as we celebrate FPWA's centennial next year, we'll need your help as we continue doing what we have always done—lead the way. We thank you for your support and partnership and hope you will stand with us again as we turn 100 years old. Make a gift today at fpwa.org/donate.









