



A Message from JCUA Leadership

We are pleased to present our 2023 Annual Report, a testament to JCUA's commitment to creating a more just and equitable Chicago and Illinois. Our work is deeply rooted in Jewish values, which guide us towards powerful community building and transformative social change.

Central to our approach is the importance of relationships. We believe that a strong community begins with one-on-one connections, and that Jewish people and our neighbors are safer when we bridge differences and work together. By bringing together our multiracial, multigenerational Jewish community — organizing in solidarity with diverse partners — we strive to dismantle barriers and pursue new possibilities. This is how we ensure community safety, compassionate immigration policies, and housing for all people.

JCUA's unwavering dedication to racial and economic justice, coupled with our unique understanding of how to combat antisemitism and all forms of hate, form the cornerstone of our community engagement and organizing model. In a time marked by division, JCUA stands as a force for mutual understanding, envisioning a region that embraces equity and compassion as its core values.

As we near our 60th anniversary, we are reflecting on our long legacy as a leader within Chicago's Jewish community.



Sara Cantor
Sara Cantor — Board President



Judy Levey
Judy Levey - Executive Director

JCUA's success lies in the strength of generational bonds — *l'dor vador* — and our enduring community partnerships. Our commitment is not just for the present, but a promise for the future.

We invite you to read more about our impact in 2023. Your participation is the foundation of our power. We thank you for believing in our mission and joining us on this journey. Together, we'll continue to shape a community that values justice, community, and action — where everyone has what they need to flourish.

Year in Review

Immigration Justice

ICIRR Statewide Organizing: During the 2023 legislative session, we won important protections and expanded resources for immigrants and refugees, including the ability for non-citizens to obtain standard driver's licenses and a requirement that hospitals screen uninsured patients for financial assistance.

Erase the Database: JCUA and our coalition partners have been advocating for years to end the use of Chicago's racist, ineffective, and error-ridden Chicago gang database. In September, the Community Commission on Public Safety and Accountability (CCPSA), which JCUA worked to create, released a policy effectively ending the use of the gang database.



Housing & Economic Justice

Bring Chicago Home: We made enormous progress on our campaign to create a dedicated revenue stream for affordable housing and wraparound services for Chicagoans experiencing homelessness. Through our coalition's organizing, we secured 32 yes votes in City Council — which will put a BCH question on the ballot for the March 2024 primary.

New Initiatives: In 2023, the Housing & Economic Justice committee took on expanded work, including the launch of Money Talks, a JCUA discussion space for class and wealth-related conversations, and Ometz Lev, an affinity space for Jews with lived experiences of housing and economic insecurity.

Community Safety

Empowering Communities for Public Safety: JCUA conducted widespread voter outreach for the first-ever elections for District Councils, an office we helped create through our 2021 campaign victory. Since District Council members took office in May, JCUA has continued to provide these leaders with guidance and support.

Treatment Not Trauma: We made significant progress on our campaign to reopen Chicago's mental health clinics and create a dedicated, non-police response line for mental health crises. A pilot initiative for Treatment Not Trauma passed through City Council in October, setting up the reopening of two public mental health clinics in 2024.





Community Development

Expanded Reach: JCUA's Community Ventures Program (CVP) zero-interest loan fund reached more than \$2.5 million. In 2023, we were active partners in 20 projects across Chicago, including both affordable housing and economic development initiatives.

Big Win: JCUA members supported the successful efforts of CVP partner Connections for the Homeless to permanently operate its homeless shelter at the Margarita Inn in Evanston.

Community Wealth Building: In 2023, CVP prioritized partnering with organizations that function as co-ops, community wealth building initiatives, or shared ownership models.

Youth Organizing

Or Tzedek: JCUA welcomed the largest-ever cohort of our Or Tzedek Teen Internship, where participants explore community organizing through a Jewish lens.

Immigration Organizing: Youth organizers were instrumental in JCUA's lobbying efforts in Springfield, meeting with legislators and securing votes from 4 state senators and 8 state representatives on key policy priorities.

Youth Leadership: JCUA's Youth Organizing Caucus has grown to include more than 30 individuals, and our Queer Youth Caucus continues to meet regularly, with 10 members building community over shared identity and experiences.



Kol Or Jews of Color Caucus

A Powerful Affinity Space: Kol Or remains a vibrant community space for Jews of Color within JCUA and continues to host activities, cultural events, and holiday gatherings. In June, Kol Or held its 6th annual Juneteenth Havdalah at KAM Isaiah Israel, which gathered more than 100 participants from across the region.

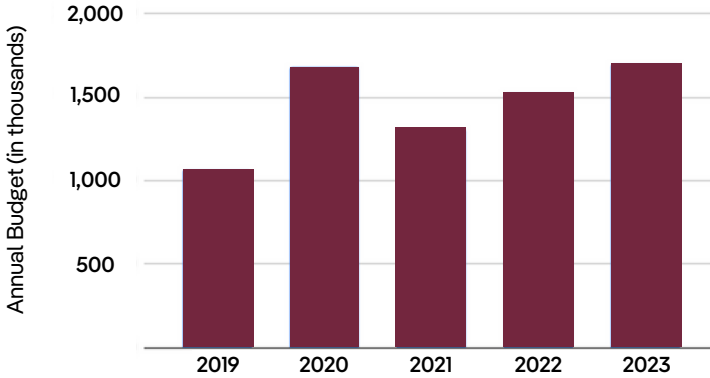
Training & Education

Expanded Offerings: JCUA hosted another year of powerful knowledge- and skills-based trainings, including new programs on "Restorative Justice" and "Racial Identity Development." JCUA continues to work with our members, Board and external partners to implement antiracist values and practices throughout our work.

Congregation Organizing: JCUA brought a variety of actions, training programs, and educational events to our 17 congregation partners, powerfully mobilizing the broader Jewish community around JCUA's issue campaigns.



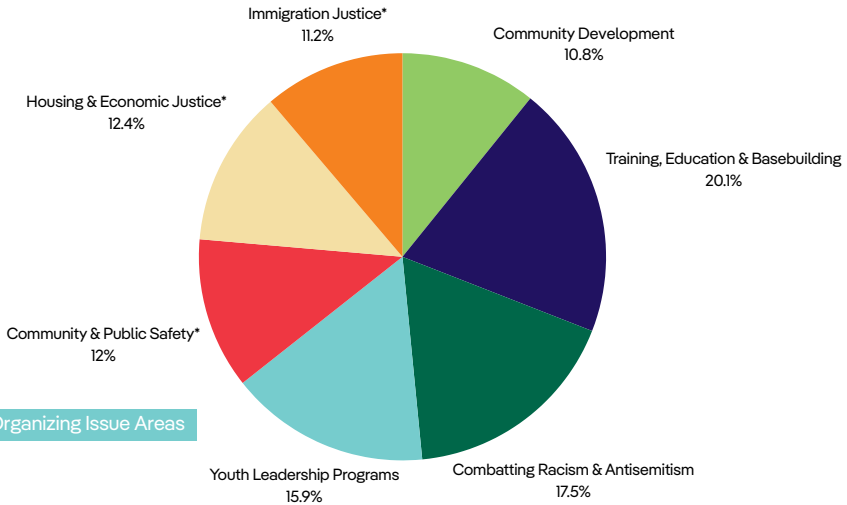
Financial Snapshot



For a copy of our full organizational budget, please reach out to Assistant Director of Development, Julie Kerszfeld at julek@pcsa.org

Organizational Growth

2023 Program Spending



*Organizing Issue Areas

Foundation Support

Allstate Insurance Company Foundation
 Anonymous Foundation
 Anonymous Fund
 Arkes Family Foundation
 Collaborative for Jewish Organizing
 Crown Family Philanthropies
 Joseph and Bessie Feinberg Foundation
 Hemmelstein Foundation
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Anshe Emet Synagogue

Beth Emet Synagogue

Beth Shalom B'nai Zaken Ethiopian Hebrew Congregation

Chicago Sinai Congregation

Emanuel Congregation

Congregation Hakafa

Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation

KAM Isaiah Israel Congregation

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Mishkan Chicago

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Secular Jewish Community & School

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Temple Jeremiah

Temple Sholom

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asia smith, Community Organizer

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