

TWO MILLION | TWO YEARS

Improving the lives of 2 million people in two years



It all started with one simple question:

“Can we improve the lives of 2 million people in 2 years?”

Over two years, we improved the lives of 3.2 million people. Everyone needs a place to live, a place to work and some way to get between the two. At Partnership for Working Families, our network of powerful affiliates tackles the crises of economic inequality and climate change that disproportionately impact low-income neighborhoods, communities of color and women. Here's how.



PARTNERSHIP
for
Working Families

ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE WHERE WE LIVE



We lowered
emissions the equivalent of taking
2 Million Cars
off the roads.

We made the infrastructure of our cities more resilient so that the new, clean economy serves all communities and creates good jobs. We advocated for our cities to invest in community solar and public transit, increase recycling, reduce building energy consumption and improve water infrastructure. Cities are leading on climate change despite Trump's withdrawal from the Paris Accord. Our campaigns ensure that all communities – particularly low-income workers and people of color – can raise their families in a clean and healthy environment.

OUR WORK IN ACTION

As Los Angeles struggled with double-digit unemployment and to move away from dirty energy, our local affiliate LAANE helped spearhead RePower LA. The group formed to push for investment in energy efficient programs that would save customers money, create good jobs and career paths and help the nation's largest municipally owned utility move toward cleaner energy.

RePower LA brought together small businesses, community groups, community members, environmentalists and labor. Together they are advocating for giving low-income communities and people of color greater access to community solar projects and have pushed to improve energy efficiency in existing buildings. Due to their efforts, Los Angeles is now on track to reduce energy use by 15% by 2020 and 442 GWh by the end of this year. (That's the equivalent of taking more than 64,000 cars off the road or enough energy to power 400,000 homes!) The coalition also advocated for the creation of IBEW Local 18's training program that is teaching hundreds of entry-level workers how to do energy efficiency upgrades while preparing them for utility careers. Now, 20,000 homes, schools and small businesses are more energy efficient and hundreds of workers are training for utility careers.



In our cities and states, we raised the minimum wage, secured paid sick days, worked to prevent wage theft, won fair scheduling and pushed city governments to require that the companies they hire for big projects create good jobs and hire local workers. This work ensured community members could put food on the table for their families.



\$5.5B

put in the pockets of
workers

2.9M

jobs created or improved

CREATING & IMPROVING JOBS

In Philadelphia, the city required all contractors to make a minimum wage of \$10.88, yet there were no requirements for subcontractors. Through this loophole, many of the 141,000 employees at Philadelphia International Airport made well below that. They made on average just \$7.85 an hour. Baggage handlers like Alfred Williams made just \$7.25 an hour and struggled to cover bills.



Partnership for Working Families affiliate, Philadelphians Organized to Witness, Empower and Rebuild (POWER), lobbied city council to put a sub-contractor minimum wage and benefits ordinance on the ballot. It called for the minimum wage to increase to \$12 an hour. After a strong campaign, the community voted overwhelmingly to approve it.

“Getting \$12 made a huge difference in my life. I now have a cushion and don’t have to worry day-to-day,” Alfred said. “I appreciate all the support we got from the community to win the wage raise we fought so hard for.”

OUR WORK IN ACTION

We influenced public and private investment to ensure widespread economic opportunity. When our cities considered major development and infrastructure projects, we made sure our governments created an open process and meaningful community engagement, that developers were held to a high standard and that the public's investment created equitable and vibrant communities. We also secured \$65B brand new investments in public transit and affordable housing at the ballot.



INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITIES



Low-income communities of color are often forced to live in areas where industry not only spreads pollution, but dead end jobs. The West Oakland neighborhood, adjacent to the Port of Oakland, was no different. However, after Partnership for Working Families affiliate EBASE led its groundbreaking campaign, many local residents now have pathways to middle-class construction and logistics careers.

For more than a decade, a decommissioned army base sat vacant until the city proposed a logistics complex. EBASE formed Revive Oakland – a coalition of community, labor and faith organizations – which mobilized and won a landmark good jobs agreement with the city and the developer. The community won 3,000 living wage jobs for local and disadvantaged workers and no screening for those with a criminal record. Since the project broke ground in 2013, it has consistently hit those targets.

A cornerstone of the agreement was also the creation of a Job Center where low-income local residents – who are primarily African American – receive training and placement into apprenticeships, starting them on the road to family-sustaining careers. Sadakao Whittington, a 41-year-old, Bay Area native and Oakland resident, is one of those workers. He was incarcerated for robbery. Two months out of prison, he attended his first orientation at the West Oakland Job Resource Center. It changed his life.

“After being in prison for 15 years, I had never earned a decent living, but the Center hooked me up with an apprenticeship program, and now I’m doing construction and demolition work,” Sadakao said. “I had nothing, but now I’m a positive reflection of the community. And when you have empowered enough of us, families are stronger, the community is improved, and crime is lowered.”

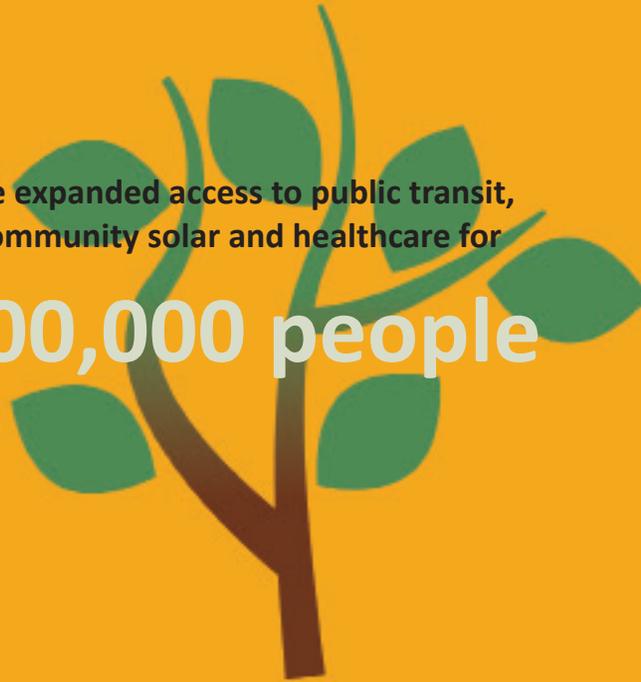
OUR WORK IN ACTION

BUILDING HEALTHY, VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

We work to make our cities more equitable as they grow and change. We expanded healthcare, affordable housing, access to vital services and community and civic engagement. We brought grassroots community voices to the forefront in public debates to shape how our cities grow.

We expanded access to public transit, community solar and healthcare for

300,000 people



Located just South of Atlanta and the Hartsfield Jackson Airport, predominantly African American Clayton County has a shocking twenty-five percent poverty rate. In 2010 amidst the fall out of the recession, bus service to the area was eliminated. The already underserved community suffered as a result. With no reliable method of getting around, many residents lost their jobs and businesses or had to drop out of school.

Elmenar Lord, a 9-year resident of Riverdale in Clayton County, was forced to quit her job with the IRS in 2010 when her bus line stopped running. Without a car or license, Elmenar struggled to find work. She was forced to rely on government assistance programs like food stamps just to get by. Even performing small tasks like getting to the hospital for routine check ups or attending church became huge logistical challenges. Elmenar often missed appointments or paid for expensive taxi rides to get around.

Partnership for Working Families affiliate Georgia STAND-UP organized a coalition with Sierra Club, community and labor groups. Together, they pushed hard and passed a ballot initiative that called for the largest-ever expansion for the MARTA transit system and got buses running out to Clayton County once again. The line now provides an estimated 1,200 trips a day.

Access to transit has provided important economic opportunities to people of color and low-income communities in Clayton County. Now, Elmenar is back at work as a part-time substitute teacher and is using the bus line daily.

OUR WORK IN ACTION

THE ROAD AHEAD

While we are proud to report that we reached our goal of impacting 2 million people in two years. In total, we helped improve the lives of 3.2 million people over the last two years, but we know there's still much to be done. That's why throughout the country we're working to...

- **Build the infrastructure our communities want & need.** We are campaigning to win community-controlled infrastructure that advances racial, economic, climate and gender justice and healthy communities.
- **Fighting against state interference.** In cities, regions and states across the country we're working to take on the detrimental trend of special interests pushing states to block the progress of cities. In cities, regions and states across the country, we're taking on the harmful trend of corporations and corporate lobbying groups pushing states to block the progress of cities.
- **Building a long-term agenda.** We are creating a long-term agenda to guide our network that is grounded in a shared analysis and inspiring vision with coordinated strategies for growth and campaigning



Partnership for Working Families is a national network of 17 powerful city and regional affiliate that build coalitions with the power to transform our cities. We advocate for and support policies and movements that help build more just and sustainable communities where we live and work. We strive to take lessons learned at the local level and apply them to the national conversation to build a framework for addressing climate change, inequality, racial and social injustice.

Find us at [Facebook.com/PartnershipforWorkingFamilies](https://www.facebook.com/PartnershipforWorkingFamilies) & @P4WF.

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