Mission Statement

COFI’s mission is to strengthen the power and voice of low-income and working families at all levels of civic life— from local institutions and communities to the local, state, and federal policy arenas.

I. Community Organizing Projects.

COFI works with local community leaders and community organizations to implement leadership training and organizing campaigns around issues of importance to low-income families.

In 2016, COFI:

• Trained over 400 new parent leaders across Illinois communities.
• Spoke with more than 18,000 families about the importance of early learning and helped to enroll over 900 children to preschool and Head Start programs.
• Operated three school-based peace centers that prevented suspensions and touched 125+ students total.
• Piloted peer-to-peer outreach in partnership with IL No Kid Hungry Campaign and the Greater Chicago Food Depository where 20 COFI-trained leaders knocked on 8,000 doors and helped connect food insecure families with free summer meals programs.

2. Cross-Community Policy & Systems Change Efforts:

COFI brings parent leaders (primarily mothers and grandmothers) together across race and communities to work on policy issues affecting children and families.

In 2016, COFI:

• Won a commitment from the City of Chicago to streamline the preschool and Head Start enrollment process
• Won support from the State Treasurer to make Children’s Savings Accounts more accessible to families of color
• Worked with partners to successfully advocate for SB100, a bill that eliminates “zero tolerance” policies and the use of exclusionary discipline.
3. **Share the Learning:**
COFI provides training and consultative support to community organizations, social service agencies and schools looking to replicate the COFI model of leadership development and community engagement.
In 2016, COFI:
- Held 7.5 days of intensive national training for 30 organizers and social service staff and advocates from 13 different organizations

Financial Report for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total revenues and support</td>
<td>$1,739,997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program service expenses</td>
<td>$1,494,521</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management and general expenses</td>
<td>$166,670</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising expenses</td>
<td>$1,494.46</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total expenses</td>
<td>$1,721,651</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ending net assets (cumulative)</td>
<td>$18,346</td>
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**Community Organizing and Family Issues (COFI)**
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