



## Community Organizing and Family Issues (COFI) Annual Report – 2016

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### **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.

*Strengthening*

*Family Voices*

*Transforming*

*Communities*

### **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

Total revenues and support	\$1,739,997
Program service expenses	\$1,494,521
Management and general expenses	\$166,670
Fundraising expenses	\$1,494.46
Total expenses	\$1,721,651
Ending net assets (cumulative)	\$18,346

### **Community Organizing and Family Issues (COFI) Board of Trustees 2017**

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Communications Consultant, Pen Ultimate Group, formerly with *Catalyst-Chicago*

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