



ANNUAL REPORT

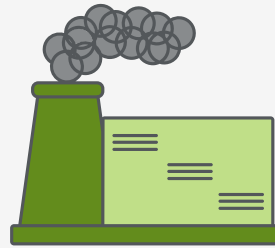
2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We at Arkansas United are so grateful to be starting our tenth year, and so proud of the work we've done in the last nine years fighting for the immigrant community in Arkansas. We are especially proud of the work we've done in the last year as we came together to battle COVID-19, provide navigation for our community, and reach new heights as an organization. Here's a quick glance at 2020 at Arkansas United.



We helped 11,218 people complete the Census!



We visited 13 Tyson Foods meat processing plants to get workers counted in the Census!



We helped register 228 people to vote and held many GOTV events!



Our AU Navigators distributed over 12,000 masks and other PPE!



Navigators also distributed 1,211 food baskets and 600 backpacks with school supplies!



We distributed \$497,260 to families in need, keeping a roof over their heads and food on their tables!



We made over 111,000 phone calls this year about COVID, the Census, and the elections!



We assisted 90 people with their citizenship journey, including 12 that are now U.S. Citizens!



We incubated 2 new organizations, CNL and ALAS, to begin serving immigrant communities!

REMEMBER, YOUR SUPPORT MADE THIS POSSIBLE, BUT WE'RE ONLY JUST GETTING STARTED!

2020 Annual Report

TABLE OF CONTENTS

02

Theory of
Change

03

Core Values

04

COVID-19 &
Beyond

05

Year In
Review

09

Partners &
Heroes

12

Goals for
2021

14

Financial
Report

16

Thanks to Our
Donors

2020 Annual Report

THEORY OF CHANGE

Arkansas United has learned so much over the past year, and we are excited to incorporate those lessons into our Theory of Change process over the course of 2021. We look forward to releasing a full report of Arkansas United's TOC analysis later this year.

MISSION AND VISION

VISION

Arkansas United envisions an Arkansas that is elevated to its full social, economic and civic potential through the development of inclusive and equitable communities where all multiethnic groups, newcomers and native-born Arkansans work together to enhance their collective quality of life.

MISSION

Arkansas United (AU, Arkansas Unido) is a nonprofit based in Springdale that is dedicated to empowering immigrants and their communities through immigrant rights advocacy and closing service gaps in immigrant integration.

2020 Annual Report

CORE VALUES

AU believes that immigrants should and can be agents of change in setting and realizing this vision for Arkansas' future.

Meanwhile, AU acknowledges that every Arkansan has value, and that there is a rationale behind each person's respective life lens. Nonetheless, we are a group that encourages all of our members and partners to lean into the discomfort.

So we at AU meet people where they are at and work on a leadership continuum to propel each person to their potential. Building immigrant leadership is at the heart of both AU's advocacy and service delivery strategies.

AU is part of an inter-generational, intersectional movement, and we strive to address structural barriers to equity through everything we do, including how we structure ourselves.

How we do things is as important as what and why; we cannot use a scarcity frame and aspire for Arkansas to see itself as an elastic band. When each Arkansan achieves their potential, the band grows for everyone.

We need to establish relationships of trust in order to challenge and change the life lens of our fellow Arkansans, find and start with common ground, which is Arkansas, more commonly done through services rather than advocacy.

We seek to work the "gaps" and continuously check ourselves for adding value, always seeking partnerships, collaborations, and opportunities to support the leadership of others to meet the needs of our community. It is not about who does it but that positive change is achieved.

We learn by doing, so we continuously assess and evaluate our work and our community, own lessons learned and discern how to grow our positive impact for all Arkansas.

2020 Annual Report

COVID-19 AND BEYOND

ARKANSAS UNITED ADAPTS

It's clear that COVID-19 has taken a physical, emotional, and economic toll on Arkansans, and our community has had to bear the brunt of that burden. From March through July 2020, COVID cases among Latinx and Marshallese residents in Arkansas were on a steady increase, and were nearly 400% higher than the general population. As we came to realize that our normal strategies for community organizing wouldn't work in the age of COVID-19, we strove to create safe ways to continue to serve our communities. In July 2020, AU urgently adopted a Community Navigation model to address the disparity of cases and help keep our communities safe. By ensuring PPE and social distancing protocols were followed, we were able to hold distribution events that put food on the table for thousands of families.

While our staff has had to convert to almost entirely remote-work, we maintain close contact and meet every day to strategize on how best to meet the needs of our community. Arkansas United, like every organization, has had to rely on digital tools more than ever this year, and we hope to carry these newly developed skills beyond COVID and utilize them far into the future.

The outpouring of support from everyone in the community, from our donors, and from our grantees has made it possible for us to expand our staff and our services during the pandemic. We could not be more grateful for that foundation that has allowed us to rise to the occasion during these incredibly difficult times. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.

-The Arkansas United Team

2020 Annual Report

YEAR IN REVIEW



2020 CENSUS

Arkansas United was involved from the start in this year's Census efforts. We helped found the state's first complete count initiative, AR Counts. We directly assisted 11,218 people in completing the census. We reached over 40,000 people with email, social media, and local media PSA's. We even visited 13 Tyson Foods plants, spreading the word and ensuring that Arkansas had a Complete Count.



2020 ELECTIONS

The 2020 Elections were historic in every sense of the word. Arkansas United is proud to have been a part of an effort with community partners that registered 228 NEW VOTERS in AR and offered assistance applying for absentee ballots!

In addition to helping register new voters, we were at the polls offering volunteer translators to our Latinx community. However, due to an anti-immigrant law, our volunteers were only able to assist 6 people in total.

This law is blatantly racist and discriminatory, and for that reason we have partnered with MALDEF to bring a lawsuit against the state of Arkansas. We will not stop until language justice prevails at the polls!



COMMUNITY NAVIGATION

Navigation has always been a large part of our mission, but this year it took the spotlight in a way we could not have predicted. Our staff **DOUBLED** this year as we rushed to hire, train, and deploy **SIX NEW COMMUNITY NAVIGATORS**. Navigators were key to spreading the word about government resources for the pandemic that were only available in English. They also helped walk people through the application process and went directly into their communities to distribute information and supplies. Organizers and Navigators are members of the communities they serve, and will maintain connections for years to come. As you see here, COVID forced us to adapt and learn to maintain this service while keeping navigators safe. Following COVID protocols, we still distributed over **11,000 MASKS**, **511 FOOD BASKETS**, and **600 BACKPACKS** to families in Arkansas immigrant communities.



COMMUNICATIONS

Staying in contact with our members and our community is always a priority for AU. That's why since July we've **ASSISTED 669 PEOPLE** who have called into our hotline, and we continue to receive around **30 CALLS PER DAY!** In 2020, we at Arkansas United made **243,855 PHONE BANKING CALLS** and spoke with **14,777 people** about **COVID**, the **CENSUS**, and **ELECTIONS**.



PARTNERS IN COMMUNITY

Here at Arkansas United, we all believe that we can become stronger when we work together. So to achieve such success in community navigation, we knew we would have to lean on community partnerships, both new and established. By working with GRUPO DE APOYO, we were able to distribute \$19,860 TO FAMILIES IN NEED. Through our donors and by partnering with COMMUNITIES UNLIMITED we were able to connect 868 ESSENTIAL WORKERS in the agriculture and poultry industries with one-time payments of \$550 for bills and necessities. We also partnered with ARKANSAS COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES ASSOCIATION to offer language access support for the state's Fresh Start Rental Assistance Program. Thank you to our partners!



ADVOCACY

Statewide advocacy efforts continue to be a focus for our team. This year we served on 2 State Health Equity Commissions to address the challenges COVID poses to the immigrant community. We lobbied the state CARES committee to include immigrants in funding decisions. We hosted the CDC as they investigated the impacts of COVID on the Latinx and Marshallese community in Arkansas. We advised the Fayetteville City Council on criminal justice reforms, and we met with Fayetteville Police Department leadership to discuss the meaning of DEFUND HATE. Finally, we were proud as AU to assume the chair of the Fair Immigration Reform Movement. We look forward to holding President Biden and Congress accountable to their promises to undo the harm of the last four years!



LEGAL

Even with the challenge of offering legal services remotely, from June to the present our legal program has been able to assist a total of 90 IMMIGRANTS with legal consultations on citizenship and has been able to complete and 51 CITIZENSHIP APPLICATIONS. Out of a total of 69 people who have been assisted with their citizenship process in Arkansas Untied during 2020, we are aware that at least 12 ARE NOW U.S. CITIZENS!

This year we designated funds to pay application fees for citizenship and DACA renewals. In 2020 we helped nearly 40 people pay these fees! This work was only possible through work with key partners like CANOPY that stood strong in the fight for citizenship and DACA.

Our Arkansas United legal team is finalizing details for the launch of virtual Citizenship Classes beginning in Jan. 2021. So far we have trained 9 VOLUNTEER EDUCATORS and we have 24 REGISTERED STUDENTS!



INCUBATORS

this year we partnered with GRUPO DE APOYO and ALAS/WINGS to financially and emotionally support families during COVID-19. We also partnered with Conexiones de Negocios Latinos to support Latinx-owned small businesses. We are proud of our work with these growing organizations, and we plan to support them as they continue to expand in service to their communities.

Thank you for all your support, we couldn't have done this without you!

2020 Annual Report

PARTNERS AND HEROES

ESSENTIAL WORKERS FUND PARTNERS

This year we were able to connect 868 essential workers with financial aid that helped them pay for food, rent, utilities, and other necessities. We celebrate our partners that helped us serve our community during the pandemic!

COMMUNITIES UNLIMITED

Communities Unlimited ignites hope by bridging racial, economic, and geographical boundaries in Southern communities emerging from generations of persistent poverty. This year, Communities Unlimited was pivotal to the administrative execution of the Essential Workers Fund, helping us connect Arkansas essential workers with direct cash relief.

Visit communitiesu.org to learn more about their extraordinary work.

COMMUNITIES
Unlimited

MARSHALLESE EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVE



The Marshallese Educational Initiative's service to the Marshallese community of Arkansas this year has been incredible. Visit www.mei.ngo for more information about the incredible work MEI does day in and day out. Thank you MEI!

EL CENTRO HISPANO

El Centro Hispano serves the Latinx community living in Northeast Arkansas and is dedicated to the social, legal, educational, cultural, civic, and general well-being of Latinx families. Visit www.centrohispanoarkansas.com to learn more about our incredible partners! Thank you El Centro!



NORTHWEST ARKANSAS WORKERS' JUSTICE CENTER

The NWAJJC was established in 2002 in Springdale and Fayetteville, AR. They seek to improve the wages, benefits, and working conditions of low-wage and immigrant workers. Visit www.nwawjc.org to find more information. Thank you NWAJJC!

AR COUNTS

Last, but certainly not least, we want to celebrate AR Counts.

This year, we at Arkansas United were proud to be CO-FOUNDERS of the state's first and only statewide Complete Count Committee, dedicated to making sure that those in Hard-To-Count Communities were fully counted in the 2020 Census.



Through AR Counts, we worked with cities and community organizations across Arkansas to make sure that immigrants, people of color, low-income workers, and all of us in Arkansas knew the value of the Census. It was estimated that even a 1% undercount would cost Arkansas \$1BILLION over the coming decade. By co-founding AR Counts, the Arkansas United team and our partners were able to work to ensure that Arkansas is set up for success for years to come. We proved that #ARCounts!

Thanks to these partners and all those who helped to serve the immigrant community of Arkansas this year!

2020 Annual Report

GOALS FOR 2021

NAVIGATION

We hope to extend our navigation work to include the COVID vaccine rollout, bridging immigrant navigation efforts with those that exist for other vulnerable communities. Through advocacy we will seek systemic changes to barriers in the navigation process. This will help us find sustainable opportunities for navigators to improve relations, expand learning, and support integration in local and state institutions.

NEW AMERICAN DREAMS

During the 2021 Legislative Session, we hope to advance our pro-immigrant, NEW AMERICAN DREAMS agenda.

CENTERING OUR MEMBERS

As part of our return to organizing and centering our members, we hope to introduce the immigrants we serve in our navigation process to our membership program. Through this, we will continue to work towards the expansion of our Local Comites, leading local-level pro-immigrant policy change by working with and serving on city councils and school boards.

2020 Annual Report

GOALS FOR 2021

CITIZENSHIP

Starting in January with the launch of our new virtual citizenship classes, we will commence a year-long effort to expand support for our members that would like to take steps towards attaining U.S. citizenship.

ADVOCACY

From Congress to City Councils, we will be working to hold our leaders accountable. In partnership with the FAIR IMMIGRATION REFORM MOVEMENT, NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR NEW AMERICANS, and NATIONAL IMMIGRATION FORUM, we will work directly with the Biden-Harris administration to ensure they keep their campaign promises to our immigrant communities.

WORKERS FUND

Our Workers Fund will continue to be a priority as long as immigrant workers in Arkansas continue to be disproportionately affected by the economic, social, and negative health consequences of COVID-19. Additionally, in 2021 we are partnering with the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation to launch the Workers Justice Funds to provide sub-grants to organizations working in organizing, capacity building, and advocacy for workers' rights in Arkansas.

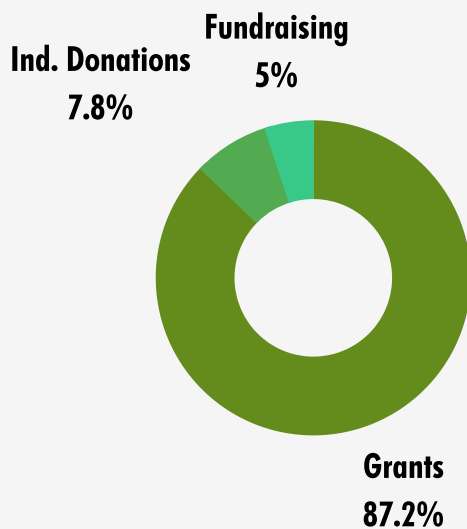
SERVICES

With our new services coordinator, we look forward to expanding the services based on the findings of our Community Services & Needs Assessment. We also have plans to partner with NPNA to launch an English acquisition program throughout the state.

2020 Annual Report

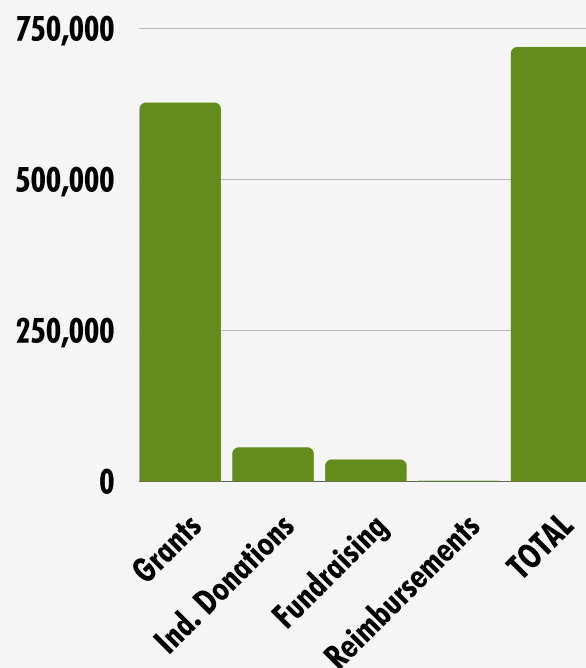
FINANCIAL REPORT

REVENUE



With over \$700,000 in total revenue, this was a historic year for Arkansas United's growth as an organization. We thank our donors, especially those that awarded us grants throughout the year, as grants represented over 85% of our annual revenue last year.

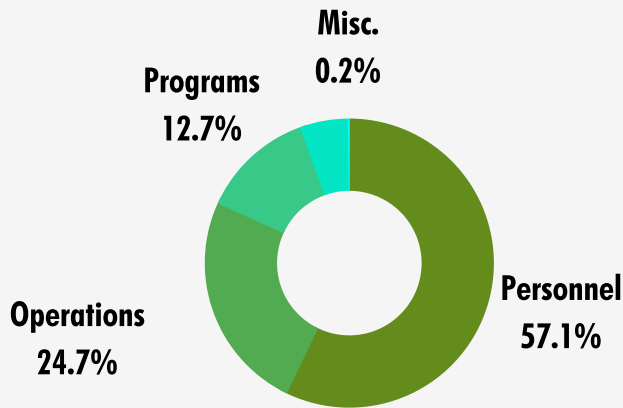
Individual Donations were also incredibly important to our success this year, with individuals giving \$55,955 over the course of 2020. Our internal fundraising efforts also led to an additional \$35,775 in donations. We are so grateful to all of our donors!



2020 Annual Report

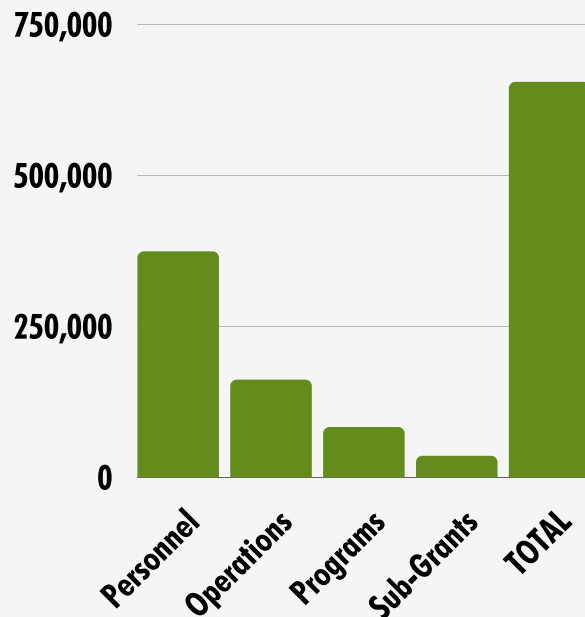
FINANCIAL REPORT

EXPENDITURES



This year, as Arkansas United invested heavily in community navigators, the majority of our expenditures went to Personnel.

Total Revenues exceeded \$650,000 with over 1/3 going towards Operations and Programs. In addition, our Personnel budget grew exponentially this year which allowed us to bring Organizers and Navigators onto the AU Team. Especially during the pandemic, these additional personnel were instrumental in engaging and serving our community.



2020 Annual Report

THANKS TO OUR DONORS

None of what we accomplished this year would have been possible without these incredible donors and grantors that believed so strongly in the mission and vision we have here at AU of an Arkansas that is inclusive and equitable for all!

2020 DONORS AND GRANTORS

- FOUR FREEDOMS FUND
 - NEW VENTURES FUND
 - ARKANSAS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
 - THE BEACON FUND
 - MARGUERITE CASEY FOUNDATION
 - NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR NEW AMERICANS
 - COMMUNITY CHANGE
 - NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LATINO ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS
 - WALMART FOUNDATION
 - WALTON FAMILY FOUNDATION
 - WINTHROP ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION
 - TYSON FOODS, INC.
 - NATIONAL IMMIGRATION LAW CENTER
-