



NETWORK
DELAWARE

presents

THE 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Introduction

Finding our focus

When we first started Network Delaware we had many different pillar areas aiming to serve a wide variety of different needs.

However, our members and community quickly realized we had too many areas and we needed to focus in on a smaller number to be effective.

With the support of many partners and members over the years, we continued to narrow down our programs until we got to where we are today.

Now we focus on just three areas: Leadership Development, Civic Engagement, and Policy Change. Specifically, this breaks down into: organizing training programs, the Campaign School, the Ella Baker Black Organizers Group, the Civic Action Alerts, the Change Agent Journey, support for the Delaware Call, support for the Community Policy Institute, and support for many different issue campaigns.

While the pandemic has slowed some things down, it has given us a chance to do more to hone in on these core areas listed above and make sure we are improving them as well as we can.

We still have a long way to go to reach our highest vision of what we think the Network community can do, but each year our members continue to keep pushing us there.

We want to foster a space so anyone in Delaware who wants to improve their skills and work for justice and change knows they have a supportive community willing to work with them. That's our true purpose and I'm grateful for everyone who has helped us find our path.

Drew Serres
Network Coordinator



Accomplishments

Leadership Development

Officially launched the Change Agent Journey which is a tailored leadership development program where you identify key skills you want to learn (e.g. management, instituting equiting/justice within your team, pushing policy, etc.) and you work with a small group and coach to reach your learning goals. We now host sessions online and in Dover, Newark, and Wilmington.

Civic Engagement

For multiple years now have grown the Civic Action Alerts initiative. The weekly readership increased to 2,000 to 3,000 people this year and has become more consistent. We are considering how to improve the program even more in 2022 so send us your ideas and suggestions!

Policy Change

Supported the continued growth of the Community Policy Institute which is an independent, nonpartisan public policy organization that engages in comprehensive research and Delaware-focused legislation and policy. They aim to "lift up ideas that work for all of us" here in Delaware. They support issue campaigns by producing fact sheets and by training members on how to effectively support policy change.

Monica's Story



One of the things I have found most fascinating about Delaware since becoming a resident of Kent County almost two years ago is how easy it is to become civically engaged.

Perhaps due to the size of the state and the overall culture, it was very easy to connect with individuals in the community striving to make a difference. Meeting with these individuals allowed me to connect with multiple civic and leadership development program.

I am not a policy expert or someone with a background in politics and elections, but after attending a few of these programs, I realized I could make a difference in my own area.

It's not just me. Here in Delaware the number of people getting involved is already on the rise. Over the past few years, more and more Delawareans have engaged in the political process, including running for office or volunteering on various issue campaigns.

Moreover, civic engagement doesn't have to be the same for everyone.

There are many kinds of civic engagement, and we all have issues that we care about. There are many organizations, including Network Delaware, that can help translate your passion into action to make a difference in your community, improve the quality of policy being developed or just become better informed.

So whether you want to run for office, push for policy change at the local or state level or organize with your neighbors to improve your neighborhood, there are plenty of ways to get involved here in Delaware.

All you have to do is start.
Monica Shockley-Porter

2021 Metrics of Success

Here's a look at how we track our success at the Network. These numbers look at data over 2021:

- **Average Survey Ranking of “Would you recommend Network Delaware to others?”**=9.65 (2020=9.5, 2019=8.71)
- **Inclusive Leadership:** % of individuals of color in leadership positions such as organizer, coordinator, team lead, trainers, etc.=68% (2020=68%, 2019=67%)
- **# of Issue Campaigns Supported**=7 (2020=5, 2019=3)
- **Effectiveness of volunteer engagement**=8.07 (2020=8, 2019=8.2)
- **Effectiveness of communications**=9.15 (2020=8.6, 2019=9)



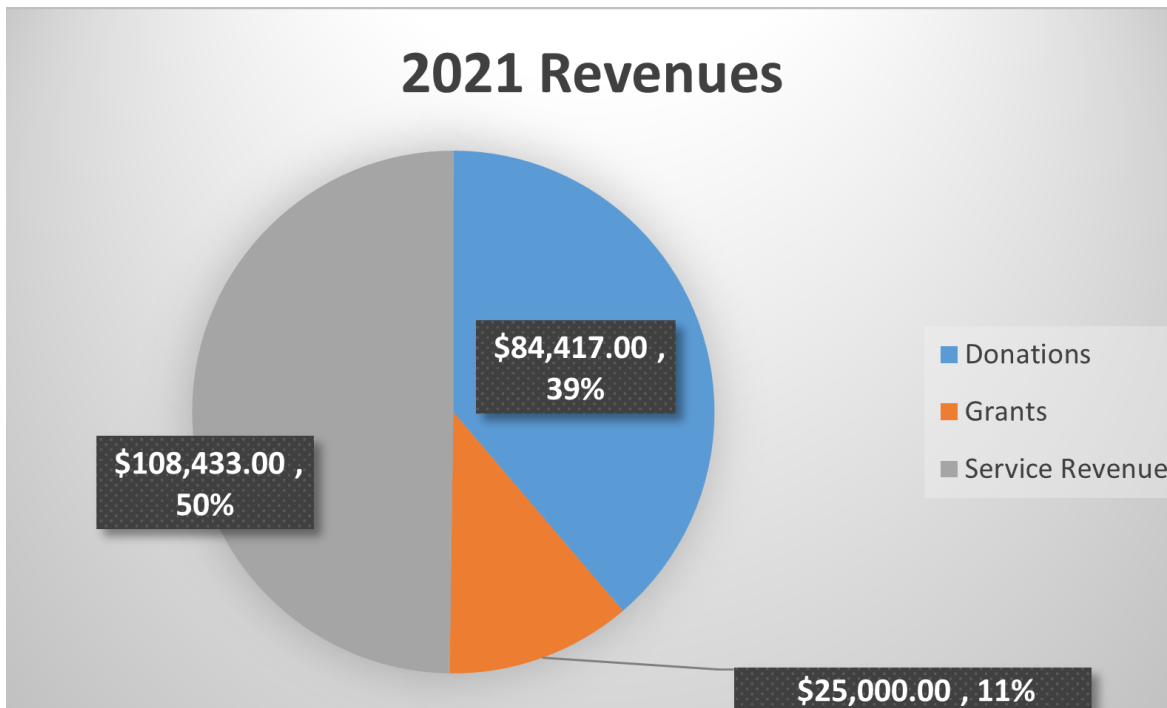
2021 Financial Summary

Here's a snapshot of Network Delaware's 2021 financials:

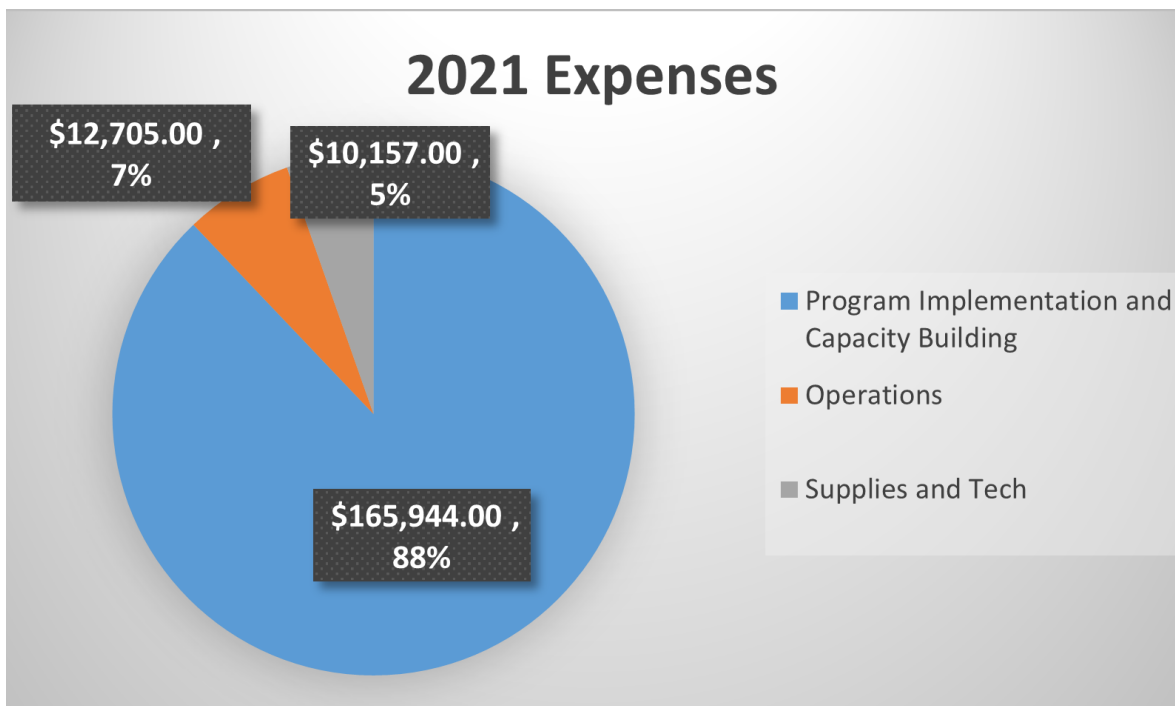
- We raised **\$217,850**
- We spent **\$188,806**
- We have **\$85,817 in assets** (including assets from previous years)

Note Network Delaware's fiscally sponsored issue campaigns and projects have a separate restricted set of funds with a balance of \$39,206.

2021 Revenues



2021 Expenses



Kirsten's Story

Before I attended my first Network Delaware meeting in 2017, I wasn't involved in politics or activism. Not because I didn't want to, but because I didn't know how to take the first step.

I saw the ways that my friends, family, and coworkers were being let down by the political process. I wanted to play a role in fighting for a more equitable & just state, but when I looked into joining different organizations, I felt overwhelmed and unsure how I would fit into their work.

I'd signed up for Network Delaware's newsletter, just hoping to learn more about the organization.

But when one of the organizers reached out to me to set up a 1-on-1, I realized that getting involved doesn't have to be scary or overwhelming. That I could set my own path, no matter how new or inexperienced I was.

I joined a few issue campaigns and civic engagement programs, and what kept me coming back were the relationships I'd built with other members. They took me under their wing, showed me the things they'd learned as activists, and helped me to develop my own skills.

One of the things I love most about Network Delaware is the commitment to building long-term relationships, and to long-term learning. No matter your experience level, everyone has something to teach and something to learn.

Kirsten Walther



What's Next For 2022?

For Network Delaware in 2022, we will be aiming to greatly expand our number of trainings in each county, along with continuing to build a base of members and volunteers. While COVID unfortunately will continue to be with us for the foreseeable future, we want to make sure both existing and new folks have plenty of opportunities to know what is going on and how they can support.

Here's just a short summary of what's new and upcoming:

- **Increasing our training programs:** We launching a series of Organizing Change Training Programs across the state to ensure all those interested can develop their skills and know how to get involved.
- **Equipping issue campaigns:** We are continuing to build out a base of support for issue campaigns to ensure they can run effective resident-led campaigns on an increasing number of policies.
- **Building a hub in Kent County:** Through Kent County organizer Tyeisha "Tye" Grier's efforts, we're focusing on increasing our support and engagement for folks in Kent County.

