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Message From Our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

I hope you and your loved ones are safe, healthy, and well. For me, 2021 is already proving to be a momentous year. In January, I celebrated my 7th year of employment at CPI. I am looking forward to many years of making good trouble with the CPI community. I entered 2021 inspired by Black leaders across this region and the nation who are saving our country and making Black history right before our eyes.

While the new year brought renewed hope, new leadership, and opportunities, we also carried over many of the old challenges—a system that offers too little protection for workers, a broken social safety net that leaves too many folks on their own in tough times and long-term underfunding of our communities which preserves and recreates racial inequity. All these challenges have been amplified by an evolving global pandemic.

In fact, these conditions create what medical anthropologists call a syndemic: when two or more threats (such as COVID-19 and a broken system) are entwined, causing their effects to build on each other, evolve, and intensify, becoming more lethal than each on their own. We are experiencing this in real-time as the COVID-19 pandemic escalates deep systemic issues—such as racism, white supremacy, and income
inequality – that our leaders have failed to (or refused to) address. **The power of collective community care and community action continue to be the cure.**

In the historic 2020 election, San Diegans elected leaders at the city and the county who campaigned on promises to make lives better for every day, working people. As we have for over two decades, CPI will continue to bring people together to hold our leaders accountable and demand the change our communities need and deserve.

To borrow the wisdom of Harriet Tubman, “*Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.*”

**This year, let's dare to dream bigger, be bolder, and move faster to create a better and more equitable San Diego region where everyone can thrive.**

In solidarity,

Kyra R. Greene, PhD  
*Executive Director*

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**COALITION UPDATES**

Community Budget Alliance (CBA)
The recession is being fueled and deepened by extreme inequality, low-paying jobs, eroded worker protections, and irresponsible budget cuts. To bridge the many gaps created by systemic racism and the exploitation of working people, we must prioritize and invest in the people, communities and neighborhoods that have been historically excluded.

Our budget and policy advocacy at the City of San Diego has begun and we hope you'll join us.

Click here to learn about our demands. Then, join us on February 18 for an online forum to learn more about the City of San Diego budget and 1) where the money comes from, 2) where the money goes, and 3) how decisions are made. Together, we will imagine a new vision for the City of San Diego so we can advocate together for a true People's Budget.

RSVP

Invest in San Diego Families (ISDF)
Last year was a year of extraordinary challenges for our communities, and of unprecedented change in the makeup of the Board of Supervisors. This year Supervisor Nathan Fletcher was joined by Supervisors Nora Vargas and Terra Lawson-Remer, two newly elected leaders who have identified CPI and the ISDF coalition as key partners to push forward a progressive change. We are already seeing significant change happening with the county’s recent declaration of racism as a public health crisis.

This is an opportunity the ISDF coalition helped create, and we vow to continue pushing our elected leaders for policies and budgets that center historically underserved communities.

Sign up for ISDF updates and follow ISDF on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to stay in the loop about our County-level advocacy.

STATE OF BLACK WORKERS IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY: A PANEL DISCUSSION
Systemic racism and labor discrimination has meant that Black families are among the most impacted by the pandemic and economic recessions. Join us on Tues, Feb. 23 for a panel discussion on the state of Black workers in San Diego County and to learn about the new San Diego Black Worker Center.
We are currently accepting applications for our Students for Economic Justice (SEJ) fellowship. The SEJ fellowship is a full-time, $15/hour, 6-week program that empowers the next generation of social justice leaders through leadership and professional development opportunities. This fellowship is open to current undergraduate students at a 2-year or 4-year institution.

Please help share this opportunity with students in your network. The deadline to apply is Friday, February 26th.

We are currently hiring for the following positions. Click to learn more:

- Communications Specialist
- Coalition Organizer

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, CPI relies on the generous support of our community to operate. If you have not been severely impacted by COVID-19 and would like to support our fight for economic and social justice, please consider becoming a monthly donor or making a one-time donation. Thank you so much!
Center on Policy Initiatives is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations made to Center on Policy Initiatives are tax-deductible. To make a donation, click here.

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