

2020–2021

# IMPACT REPORT



# FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Dear Friends,

We are delighted to share this summary of CLASP's impact on behalf of families with low incomes and communities of color at a time of extraordinary need and opportunity.

In 2020, the tragic impact of the global pandemic and recession on families' lives increased demand for our work across the board—new ideas in Congress, technical assistance to federal and state agencies, and partnerships with our advocacy colleagues.

We put forth ideas during this period that we've been advancing for decades and that are now on the cusp of happening. We're proud of the groundbreaking work we did in 2020 and much of 2021. Here's a snapshot: the [precedent-setting recovery plan](#) passage and its impact on families, communities, and sectors; innovative collaborations with dynamic leaders and organizations; thoughtful approaches to addressing policy implementation and access; and the [strategic engagement with the Biden Administration](#).

At the core of CLASP efforts are our staff, leadership, board, networks, and partners—a diverse universe of national, state, and local organizations, community leaders, activists, individuals with lived experiences, and supporters like you.

Sustained investments in CLASP have allowed us to navigate challenging times and evolve stronger in our anti-poverty and racial equity journey. We hope this report sheds light on our impact in fueling a broader social and economic justice vision.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Olivia A. Golden".

**Olivia Golden**  
Executive Director



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "LaVeeda Battle".

**LaVeeda Battle**  
Board Chair

➤ Visit [CLASP.org/blog](https://CLASP.org/blog) to read timely updates from CLASP experts about innovative federal, state, and local policy solutions that can address poverty and increase opportunity.

## OUR RACIAL EQUITY MISSION

We understand that poverty in America is inextricably tied to systemic racism. **We will explicitly, and with intention, focus our policy and advocacy efforts for economic and racial justice on addressing systemic racism as the primary cause of poverty for communities of color in the United States.** We believe that centering communities of color in our advocacy leads to policies that advance economic justice for everyone. We work in partnership with the people most impacted to move policies that promote racial and economic justice and opportunity from vision to policy to practice.

## OUR STRATEGIES

For over 50 years, CLASP has been a leader in advancing policy solutions to end poverty and center equity. Our strategies include:



Racial Equity



Information Access



Elevated Guidance



Education & Awareness



Technical Assistance



Timely Policy Analysis



Participatory Advocacy



Network & Power Building



Cross-Cutting Policies



Community Engagement

# RACIAL EQUITY

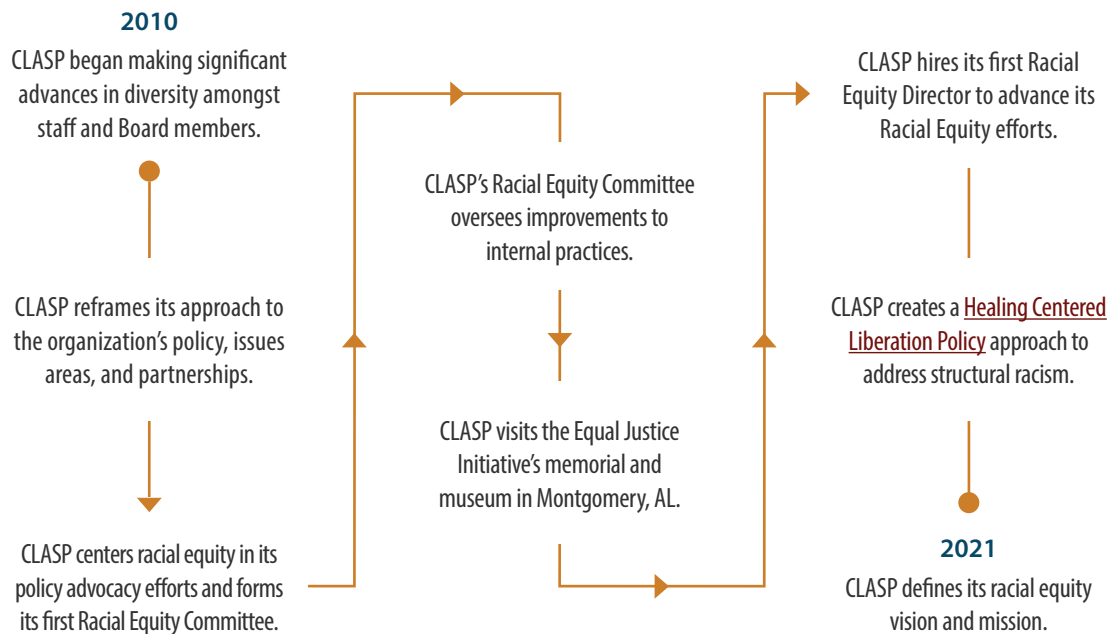
CLASP is committed to deepening our understanding of the intersection of race and poverty and the role of racism in maintaining a society where communities of color disproportionately experience systemic poverty.

In the spring of 2020, amid the pandemic and the racial justice movement, CLASP took time to critically analyze and evaluate our role in fighting for racial equity and justice as an anti-poverty non-profit organization. Although we were already fervently committed to racial equity prior to this movement, we acknowledged the need to do more by continuing and deepening our engagement in making sustainable transformational change.

To meet this need and identify the next phase of CLASP's racial equity journey, we conducted an internal assessment of CLASP's staff, consultants, fellows, and Board members. The assessment affirmed the progress CLASP had made toward prioritizing and centering racial equity internally and externally.

One of the most important revelations from the assessment was the call to create and implement both a "Bold Vision" for CLASP's racial equity journey and an explicit framework to inform and guide our policy and advocacy efforts. This framework will include practical ways of directly infusing racial equity into policy efforts, technical assistance, and our related strategies and partnerships.

## CLASP'S 10-YEAR JOURNEY





## THE NEXT CHAPTER

CLASP has begun articulating a bold and transformative racial equity vision for policy advocacy efforts that will lead and inform our work, our relationships, and our approaches to addressing the systemic and institutional racism embedded deep within the policy and issue areas at the core of our work.

Creation of a Racial Equity Policy and Advocacy Framework will take guiding principles and concepts from existing racial equity and critical race theories, and couple them with many of the practical steps and processes CLASP follows in our policy and advocacy efforts.

Core to this effort is the inclusion and participation of diverse stakeholders and partners who have direct lived experience and insight into the demands of communities experiencing poverty. We understand that we can only achieve our goals if we go to impacted people, ask what they need, and partner with them in creating and advancing solutions.

## RACIAL EQUITY FRAMEWORK OUTCOMES:



Create accessible tools to better guide our work under a shared definition and understanding of racial equity.



Develop internal measures for accountability and communication of our overarching racial equity commitment to external partners and the communities we advocate alongside.



Analyze and evaluate our current understanding of racial equity—based on past successes and challenges—to transcend baseline awareness and truly address the nuanced and intricate interconnectedness of U.S. racism and poverty.

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*To incorporate it [racial equity] into a policy/ advocacy lens, we have to move beyond the admission of it . . . We need a vision that centers the lived experiences of people of color, the same way we center data analytics and trends.*

— CLASP Staff Member

# CREATING CONNECTIONS

CLASP strategically partners with hundreds of organizations and advocates across the country. We convene diverse networks to build deeper connections at all levels to co-create equitable policy solutions. CLASP partnerships range from individuals with lived experience to community and state advocates and administrators to national policy organizations:

**90+** State Advocates & Administrators

**110+** National Policy Organizations

**25+** Community-Based Organizations

**20+** Coalitions and Networks

**60+** Individuals with Lived Experience



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Young people are often not given a seat at the table so they have to make their own table. And that's very much what the New Deal for Youth is. It's young people responding to the issues that are urgent to them.

— Smitha Gundavajhala, Changemaker



## CENTERING PEOPLE IN POLICY DEVELOPMENT

CLASP incorporates individuals with lived experiences into policy development so policies are more responsive to community demands. The engagement we use includes shared learning, leadership development, expertise, and co-creation. Across CLASP issue areas, we are redefining what inclusion means in policy development and are evolving our efforts as we collaborate with partners.

### Community Partnership Group

The CPG is comprised of community representatives with lived experience from different localities to explicitly address historical and ongoing structural racism in policy development, implementation, and investment around access to public benefits.

### [A New Deal for Youth](#)

A New Deal for Youth builds on a multi-year intentional process to move from consulting with youth and young adults to partnering with and centering their leadership, expertise, and vision for youth policy.

### [Communities Collaborating to Reconnect Youth](#)

The Communities Collaborating to Reconnect Youth Network (CCRY) is a national learning community of leaders working across systems to help young people reconnect to education and career pathways. CLASP serves as a policy resource for CCRY members.

### [Mental Health Advisory Board](#)

This advisory board guides CLASP's work and technical assistance efforts in mental and behavioral health policy. It includes experts in mental and behavioral health, federal Medicaid policy, racial justice, and youth workforce development, as well as individuals from impacted communities.

## NETWORKS & PARTNERS



Our network- and coalition-building strategy expands our impact and heightens cross-sector collaboration with diverse partners across issue areas. We have successfully convened and are leads and co-leads on many networks and campaigns.

### [Children Thrive Action Network](#)

100+ diverse, cross-sector advocates and service providers at the national, state, and local levels defending and supporting children in mixed-status immigrant families in the United States.

### [Protecting Immigrant Families Campaign](#)

This coalition led by CLASP and the National Immigration Law Center includes 500+ members from 40 states is fighting against threats to the economic security of immigrants and their families.

### [Paid Leave for All](#)

This collaboration of 75+ organizations led by partners, including CLASP, is fighting for paid family and medical leave for all working people.

### [Child Care for Every Family Network](#)

CLASP and the National Women's Law Center have convened a network of 25+ child care advocates—spanning policy, research, communications, and organizing—that seek to center racial and gender equity to create and enact a bold, equitable vision for child care.

# CHANGING THE NARRATIVE

## FEATURED IN:



The Washington Post



*The Atlantic*



ALJAZEERA

C-SPAN



1,725

News Organizations  
Covering Us



2,810

Articles Quoting &  
Citing Us



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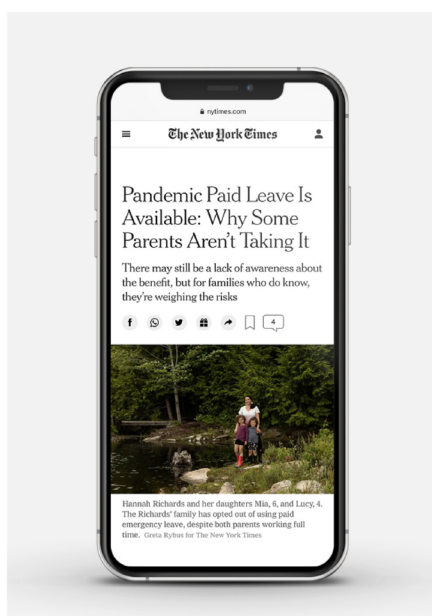
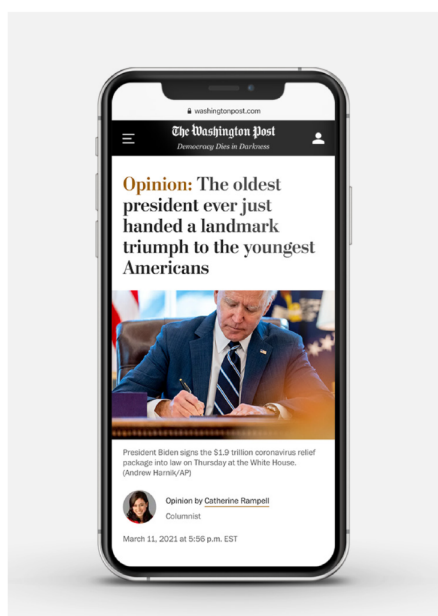
*This is the biggest investment in child care since World War II.*

— Executive Dir. Olivia Golden on [\\$1.9 trillion relief package](#)

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*Most people don't even know to ask [for paid leave at their jobs].*

— Job Quality Dir. Pronita Gupta on [pandemic paid leave](#)



In 2020, CLASP helped lead the online discussion of COVID-19 relief efforts, resulting in historic social media and website traffic:

 **233**  
Publications

 **364k+**  
Views & Downloads

 **400k+**  
Tweet Impressions

 **104%**  
Pageview Increase

 **198**  
Webinars

 **4,851**  
Participants

# STATE & LOCAL ENGAGEMENT

CLASP provides technical assistance to state and local policymakers and advocates across all 50 states, with a growing focus on the South.

States lead the delivery of many crucial anti-poverty, labor, and education programs, so hands-on implementation and advocacy support is crucial to achieving CLASP's anti-poverty and racial equity goals.

Our implementation expertise combined with our federal influence creates a feedback loop informing our federal policy development to ensure policies are practical and affect people's lives in the short and longer term in a transformative way.



*CLASP has to help people see these issues of race differently. That can only be done by relationship-building, which can be challenging, especially in states that have been less likely to support CLASP's stance on certain issues, but if we are going to address poverty through a racial equity lens, it's mandatory.*

— CLASP Board Member

Helped states take advantage of urgently needed federal pandemic relief programs like [Pandemic EBT](#), to support children in immigrant families facing food insecurity during the pandemic.

[Increased access to high-quality child care](#) for thousands of families and improved sector support for providers and workers. Helped at least 11 states improve child care subsidy policies so provider compensation was based on previous enrollment rather than attendance and continued payments in the case of closure.

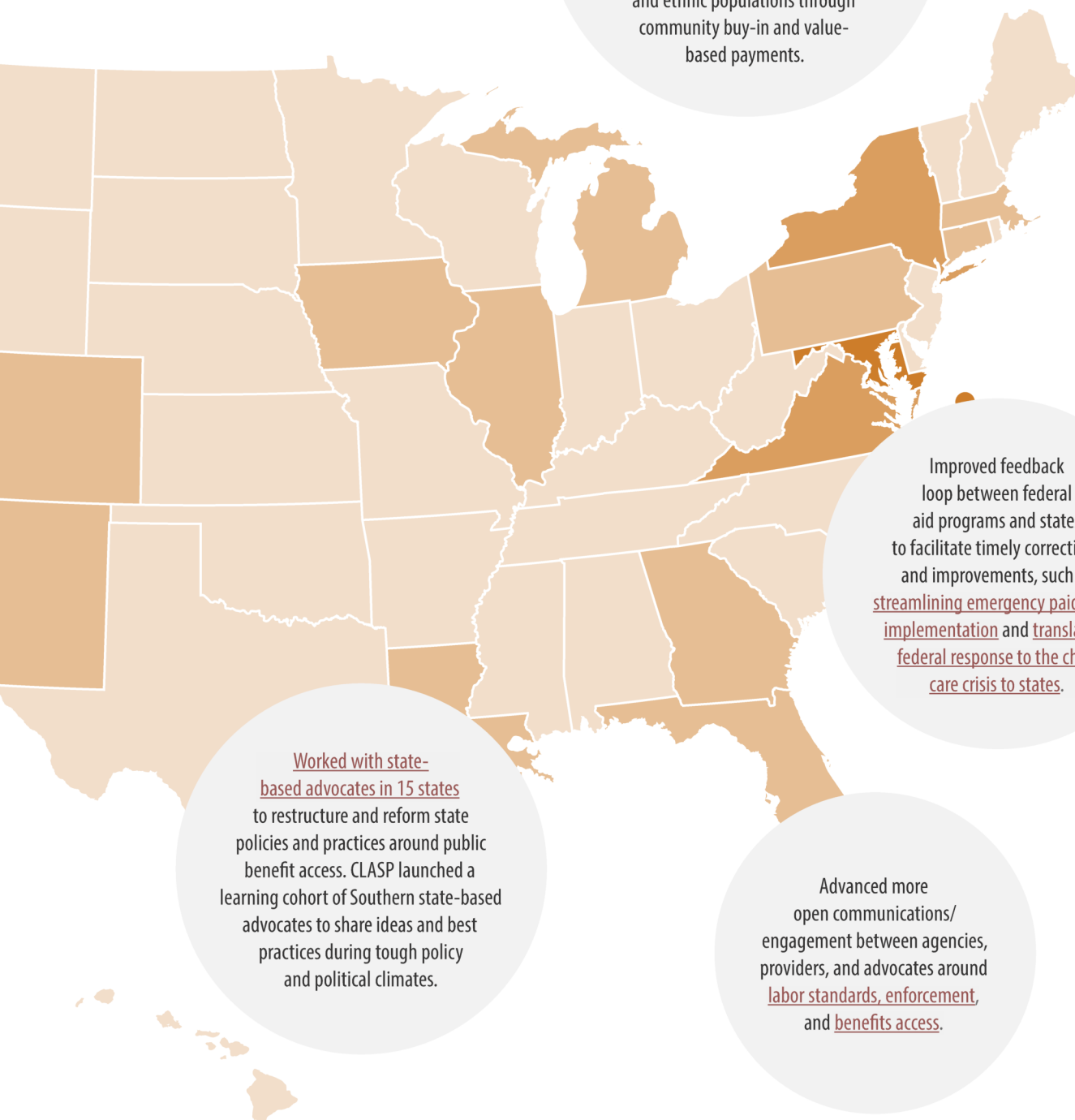
**110+** National Partners

**90+** State Partners

**85+** Local Partners

Centered racial equity in state mental health systems to improve access for those in low-income, rural, and Black and Brown communities. In Pennsylvania, CLASP worked with mental health administrators to develop provider incentives that better serve racial and ethnic populations through community buy-in and value-based payments.

- 10–12 Partners
- 7–9 Partners
- 4–6 Partners
- 1–3 Partners



Improved feedback loop between federal aid programs and states to facilitate timely corrections and improvements, such as streamlining emergency paid leave implementation and translating federal response to the child care crisis to states.

Worked with state-based advocates in 15 states to restructure and reform state policies and practices around public benefit access. CLASP launched a learning cohort of Southern state-based advocates to share ideas and best practices during tough policy and political climates.

Advanced more open communications/engagement between agencies, providers, and advocates around labor standards, enforcement, and benefits access.

# FEDERAL IMPACT

01

## CHILD TAX CREDIT EXPANSION

CLASP and our partners fought to **expand the Child Tax Credit (CTC) in the American Rescue Plan to reach the one in three children denied full benefits**. Experts predict the expanded CTC can effectively **cut child poverty in half, helping 23 million children who currently miss out on the benefit and lifting 4 million children out of poverty entirely**.

02

## IMMIGRANT BENEFITS

The Protecting Immigrant Families campaign contributed to the defeat of the Trump Administration's damaging public charge rule, generating more than 250,000 public comments and ensuring that **millions of immigrants gain access to public benefits and supports**. CLASP also informed the Congressional debate around access to stimulus payments for people in mixed-status immigrant families, resulting in **5.1 million additional children covered in the third relief package**.

05

## CHILD CARE INVESTMENT

CLASP laid the groundwork through research, analysis, policymaker education, public awareness and more to achieve a **historic investment of \$50 billion for child care**. This unprecedented investment will be directed to rebuild a devastated child care system as we work toward one that works for all families.

06

## ADMINISTRATION TRANSITION

CLASP's **ten major transition briefings and over a dozen meetings with the Biden Administration's transition team** laid the groundwork for early wins, including early executive actions on immigration, public benefits, and labor standards.

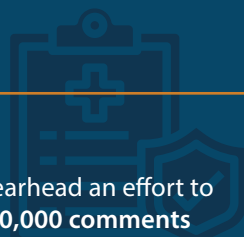


CLASP leverages our policy expertise and deep relationships on Capitol Hill to advance high-impact policy solutions and reverse harmful policies.

03

## ACCESS TO PUBLIC BENEFITS

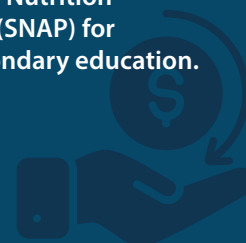
CLASP helped spearhead an effort to **generate over 100,000 comments** opposing a Trump Administration rule that would have cut **SNAP benefits for nearly 700,000 jobless workers** with low incomes. A federal court struck down the rule, citing these comments. CLASP also submitted comments that spurred the Biden Administration to **halt states from implementing harmful waivers to impose Medicaid work reporting requirements**.



04

## YOUTH INCLUSION

CLASP prioritized youth and young adults in our successful advocacy for the **expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)** to include— for the first time—workers under age 25 without children. Our youth-focused advocacy also led to **expanded access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** for students in postsecondary education.



07

## NATIONAL PAID LEAVE

CLASP helped secure the **first-ever national paid leave program for private sector workers**. Thanks to the Families First Coronavirus Relief Act, **32 million workers got access to emergency paid sick days and paid family and medical leave**.



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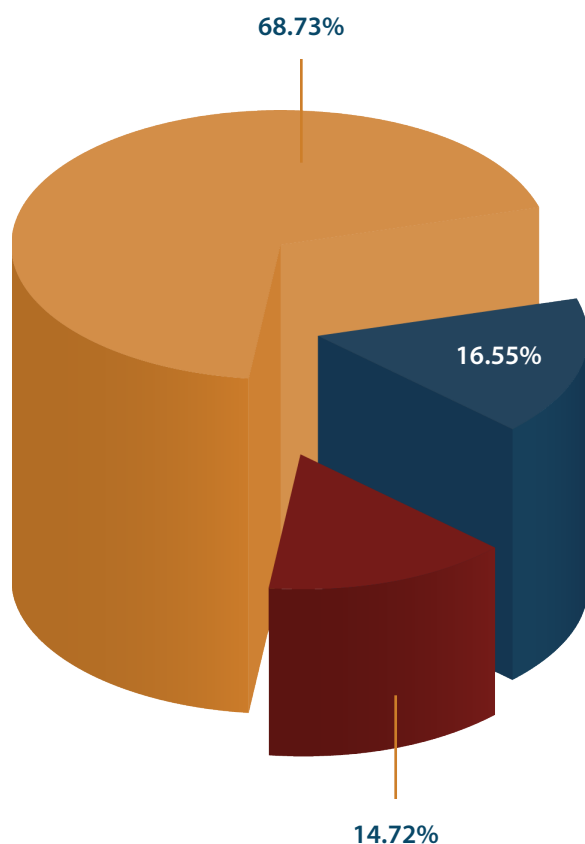
*Young people in my hometown of St. Louis and elsewhere are shaping our legislative efforts. They are forcing us to dream big and to fight hard for the future of this country, this global community, and our planet. I am inspired by their bold vision for A New Deal for Youth and look forward to partnering with them to make their demands for justice a reality.*

— Rep. Cori Bush (D-MO), U.S. Congresswoman

# FINANCIALS

The support CLASP received from philanthropic partners in 2020 and 2021 has been critical to our ability to remain flexible and nimble in times of uncertainty and heightened demand for our expertise and assistance at the federal, state, and local levels.

Financial investments from individuals and institutions sustain CLASP organizationally and allow us to support our collaborative campaigns and on-the-ground partners, including individuals with lived experiences. As we seek to diversify our funding, we are working to ensure all who support our work recognize and are aligned with our values and unwavering commitment to ending poverty and advancing racial equity through policy solutions.



## 2020 ORGANIZATIONAL EXPENDITURES

More than 83% of every dollar of financial support to CLASP goes toward programmatic and partnership-related work.

**Program Services:** \$5,945,056

**Partner Grants:** \$1,273,600

**Administrative Support:** \$1,431,108


CLASP is a 501(c)3 charitable organization (EIN: 23-7000150).  
Donations are tax-deductible to the extent of the law.


[CLASP.ORG/SUPPORT-CLASP](https://CLASP.ORG/SUPPORT-CLASP)

# CLASP

The Center for Law and Social Policy

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