



The OOC has done the important work of bringing together faith, community and labor organizations to fight on behalf of working and middle class Ohioans. Their work during the battle to protect collective bargaining rights was crucial to our success, and I look forward to continuing my work with them to move Ohio forward.

U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown

Who We Are

Formed in 2007, the Ohio Organizing Collaborative (OOC) is an innovative and experimental statewide organization that unites community organizing groups, labor unions, faith organizations, and policy institutes across the state. The OOC currently consists of fourteen member organizations with members in every major metropolitan area and also houses one of the nation's largest progressive movement building projects.

The OOC was formed around three basic ideas. One, that community, faith, labor, and policy organizations must commit to a long term permanent alliance as opposed to coming together sporadically around the latest campaign, contract fight, or election. Second, there is a need for innovation in the field of community organizing that addresses issues of scale, nimbleness, layered strategies, electoral capacity, and breadth of leadership development. And last, we cannot build a progressive movement in this country without the middle of the country. We must develop an economic and organizing agenda that address de-industrialization and the decades long decline of urban cores in the Midwest.

In five years, the OOC has become a leading statewide organizing model and has emerged as a significant force in shaping Ohio public policy. It has brought together thousands of people across faith, labor, and neighborhood lines to collaborate on issues and campaigns ranging from community benefit agreements to big bank accountability to vacant properties and social disparities of health. In the fall of 2011, the OOC launched its statewide jobs campaign holding events that drew more than 3,000 people in five cities. The OOC's job campaign is a long term strategy to fundamentally change the economic narrative in Ohio, reverse more than a decade of disinvestment in public infrastructure, and create an economy that works for all Ohioans. The OOC also has a sister 501c4, The Ohio Organizing Campaign, that played a key role in the repeal of SB5, Ohio's anti-collective bargaining bill in 2011.



What We Believe

At the core of our work, we believe in an Ohio where an honest day's work receives a fair day's pay, where our most vulnerable citizens are nurtured and cared for, and where there is equal access to opportunity.



We believe that together, we can create an Ohio where a good life is available to each and every Ohioan, not just the few and the privileged. This will not happen if we allow the systematic deconstruction of the public systems and services that underpin our economy and our quality of life. OOC members believe in a future that puts the public good above private interests: we believe in Ohio.

We vow to hold all leaders, public officials and corporations accountable to uphold the dignity and value of every Ohioan.

Key Assets and National Partners

In five years, OOC has built a network of 124 congregations in ten cities, with strong canvassing operations and neighborhood organizing in five cities and one of the largest electoral programs in the state. Currently, there are 18 organizing staff embedded in local communities and five statewide staff (including a communications director and civic engagement director).



OOC boasts a large and growing leadership training program, strong partnerships with key progressive policy groups, the ability to mobilize actions of up to 1,000 people in multiple cities, the ability to use sophisticated targeting and data tools, a strong electoral track record, innovative movement building work, and a strong record of local organizing and base building. In addition to our partners in Ohio, OOC works closely with the Center for Community Change, National People's Action, PICO, Wellstone Action, ISIAH and Healthy Heartlands, and the National Domestic Workers Alliance and the Caring Across Generations Campaign.

Accomplishments

OOC leads a state and national grassroots effort to shape policy regarding the challenges faced by older industrial cities, emphasizing vacant properties and long-term disinvestment. Our member groups have convened large scale meetings (of over 1,000 residents) with Ohio's former Lieutenant Governor, met repeatedly with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan, hosted policy briefings on Capitol Hill, and passed a state law allowing the creation and expansion of land reutilization corporations across Ohio. Most recently, OOC led the Ohio work for a fair settlement in the Attorneys General lawsuit against big banks. The settlement resulted in the receipt of \$335 million for the state, with \$75 million specifically earmarked for the demolition of vacant and dilapidated structures in Ohio's older industrial cities. Other campaign accomplishments include:

- In each of the last five election cycles, OOC members have collaboratively managed extensive voter engagement (GOTV) programs. In 2010, OOC members developed one of Ohio's largest 501c3 GOTV effort, with a focus on Cincinnati, Youngstown and Cleveland. With 70 paid staff and 150 volunteers, we made 88,816 voter contacts, including 21,846 door knocks, 64,880 phone calls, in an effort to move 13,194 unlikely voter to the polls.
- In 2006 and 2007, the AMOS Project, UFCW 75, SEIU and the building trades organized thousands of people in a campaign that resulted in Ohio's largest Community Benefits Agreement on the \$700 million dollar River Banks Redevelopment Project. The CBA mandates setting aside 22 percent of the jobs created by the project for women and people of color living in Hamilton County and stipulates fair contracting standards.
- OOC and the Ohio Justice and Policy Center are leading efforts to address second chances and new opportunities for two million Ohioans with felony and misdemeanor records. This work led to a model "Fair Hiring Policy" that was passed in Cleveland and Cincinnati, and is being considered in other cities across Ohio. OOC also worked for the passage of HB 86 in June 2011; this landmark criminal sentencing reform closes drug sentencing disparities, provides alternatives to incarceration for low level nonviolent offenders, creates pathways to employment for the currently incarcerated, and decreases sentences that will save Ohio over \$46 million by 2015. Finally, OOC is working directly with Ohio employers to hire returning citizens directly from our membership.
- Together with NPA, OOC organized one of the largest national actions on Chase Bank in Columbus. After continuing to foreclose on hundreds of thousands of Ohio families while reducing small business lending by 75 percent, Chase prolonged Ohio's economic pain and worsened its revenue crisis. In response, over 800 community, faith and labor leaders delivered a clear message at the Chase shareholders meeting in May 2011. It's time for banks to stop illegal foreclosures, create jobs and end the revenue crisis that they started.
- In May 2011, OOC and the Mahoning Valley Organizing Collaborative hosted a Justice Revival with 400 residents and faith leaders from across the state. The keynote speaker was Jim Wallis, a progressive evangelical preacher, author, and founder of Sojourners Magazine. Rev. Wallis joined OOC in calling for our legislature to address the pressing issues facing Ohio's most vulnerable residents and called for them to understand that state budget is a moral document that has broad effects on the livelihoods of all Ohioans.
- The AMOS Project, a founding organization of the OOC, held a groundbreaking Racial Justice Summit in late 2011 with Professor John Powell as keynote speaker. The summit brought together 315 institutional leaders from 53 different congregations, businesses, government offices and unions to frame current issues facing Ohio's families through a lens of race and opportunity, with key issues focusing on jobs and criminal justice reform. A second summit is planned for May 2012.



Jobs Campaign

While debate about job creation and revenue disputes remain stuck in old paradigms inside of the beltway, motion at the grassroots and in the states suggests that the tide may be turning. Ohio can be at the leading edge of this change. The victory of the effort to repeal SB 5 and restore collective bargaining rights for workers, and the movement activity that powered that effort, create a remarkable opportunity to move economic organizing from defense to offense in a way that could have a profound impact on the national agenda.

Our campaign has four strategies that are central to our work and the development of our jobs platform: Create Good jobs, Hire Ohio, Invest in Ohio Communities, and Respect Ohio Workers.

Create Good Jobs. Unemployment is at a crisis level in Ohio. Men have not been employed at this low a level in more than sixty years of record-keeping. Of the unemployed, more have been out of work for over half a year than ever before. It's time to put Ohio back to work. By getting rid of the worst recent tax changes, we can raise enough to employ ten of thousands of workers directly, and to get tens of thousands more hired in private companies. We can put these jobs where the people are. The public workers would raze dilapidated housing, clean toxic algae, insulate buildings, teach preschool and deliver health services. These jobs would improve community health and well-being, reduce long-term costs in a number of ways, create private sector demand, improve the environment, and make tomorrow's workers more job-ready and productive.



Hire Ohio. Too often when jobs are created in Ohio, our state's residents are last in line for those jobs. This may be because they do not have adequate job training or education, they have an irrelevant criminal record that prevents them from applying, or corporations are consciously not hiring our residents. Our work is focused on creating employment opportunities for returning citizens, working on community benefit agreements, creating public sector jobs, and increasing workforce training. In the last state budget, thousands of jobs were cut through slashing support to local government and gutting our state's social safety net and a 2 billion dollar reduction in education funding. Ohio cannot return to prosperity by eliminating jobs that support our communities and create opportunity. Instead, Ohio should be thinking creatively about creating incentives such as a Caregiver's credit and restoring these cuts.



Protect Ohio Communities. Ohio's urban cores are littered with abandoned properties and have been hard hit by the foreclosure crisis. Our cities need to be re-imagined. Instead of being a liability to our economy, our cities can again be engines for economic growth if we employ strategies to deconstruct homes, re-establish smaller but healthy urban neighborhoods, create cooperatives such as Evergreen in Cleveland, and creatively use the 388 million dollar AG settlement to jump start local economic activity.



Respect Ohio Workers. A state that does not pay its workers a living wage and restricts a workers basic right to have a voice in the workplace is a state that grows in economic disparity. All of our gains in other areas are undermined by the attempt to strip workers of the right to collectively bargain and the effort to dismantle labor unions with "right to work" legislation and proposals such as SB5. In addition, hundreds of contracts are fought for and negotiated each year that determine the quality of life of tens of thousands Ohioans.



The overall goal of our jobs campaign is to create a strategy that advances policies that shift the political climate towards a progressive vision of Ohio by building on the 99 percent narrative, increasing enthusiasm in an election year around a clear jobs agenda, advancing movement building, continuing to foster the close collaboration between labor, community and faith organizations, and by involving thousands of people who are not part of any of these organizations.

Ohio Prophetic Voices

The Ohio Prophetic Voices (OPV) campaign is building a statewide clergy network that is committed to moving a powerful prophetic narrative around racial and economic justice in their congregations and in the larger public sphere. As the dominant narrative of individualism, scarcity and fear underpins a public agenda to limit government, increase private wealth for the few and sow division through racism and exclusion, the OOC is putting forth a bold vision grounded in deep faith values. By coordinating message, linking our congregations in a common program of action and promoting a faith-rooted narrative into the public debate, we will unleash a faith-based movement that calls forth our yearning for community and connectedness. It is our belief that we have enough to share with all Ohioans and a hope that we can build our common life if we do it together.



Currently, OPV is building a linked network of 250 clergy and 250 congregations committed to these ideals. It is a robust, faith-grounded program which invites Ohioans into the movement through a common, prophetic narrative that engages us in deep dialogue about race, equity and an economy that works for every resident.

Movement Building

Movement building is an exciting new approach to organizing unorganized people in meaningful ways to achieve ambitious campaign objectives. In 2011, the OOC and Center for Community Change partnered with CWA, SEIU, UFCW, AFSCME and OEA to create such an approach. This project, Stand Up for Good Jobs and Strong Communities, played a critical role, beginning with a 2 day training with 100 leaders to develop a robust Facebook page with over 100,000 followers, to a statewide action with 10,000 people. Today, our Movement Building campaign is building 25 leadership capacity teams throughout Ohio, many centered in under organized low-income communities and communities of color, to engage and expand at strategic moments.



Ohio Student Association

The combination of the Senate Bill-5 fight and the budget cuts to higher education created a high level of organized political activity on Ohio's college campuses. An organic movement of student activists built committees that organized demonstrations in spring 2011, helped get SB 5 on the ballot, and later campaigned for its defeat. This was accomplished through informal networks that later received support from the Labor movement, SEIU, the OOC, and We Are Ohio. In 2012, Ohio held its first Student Congress where more than 100 student leaders from eight universities formally created the Ohio Student Association (OSA) and shortly thereafter had its first action against student debt, mobilizing 600 students at multiple universities. Currently OSA is seeking to solidify its membership network, build an email list of 250,000 Ohio students, develop an on-campus electoral program and campaign on student debt and college privatization.



Electoral Program

OOC's voter engagement work will be fully integrated with our jobs organizing platform to build a statewide base of jobs voters. The OOC will utilize advanced voter contact strategies and innovations and test voter contact models. OOC will integrate our electoral work with both local and statewide issue organizing in 2012 creating a robust base to campaign on our jobs strategy in 2013. OOC will ensure that as a collaboration between labor, community, faith and policy groups, we are building an infrastructure that will bring social and economic change to Ohio, a long-term objective that will not be accomplished in one or two election cycles.



The AMOS Project

The AMOS Project is a coalition of congregations in Greater Cincinnati dedicated to advancing justice and improving the quality of life for all residents. AMOS develops the leadership skills of low-income and working families to participate in public life. Through direct actions, rallies and public meetings, AMOS leaders engage elected, business and community leaders to work together on critical community issues. AMOS campaigns include removing barriers for formerly incarcerated individuals to find employment, the creation of Ohio's largest Community Benefits Agreement and advocating for voting rights. AMOS leaders are challenged and impelled by the prophet Amos who urged "see that justice is done."



Mahoning Valley Organizing Collaborative

The Mahoning Valley Organizing Collaborative (MVOC) is a broad-based community organizing effort seeking to reweave the fabric of communities in the Northeast Ohio counties of Mahoning, Trumbull, and Columbiana. Currently MVOC employs ten organizing, communication and administrative staff and works with more than 110 churches, neighborhood organizations, unions, and other grassroots groups. Over 8,000 people have actively participated in MVOC's work since its inception in 2007. Over the last three years, MVOC has led successful Vacant Property, Health Care Reform and Health Equity Campaigns and was the recipient of the Dominion Impact Award in 2009 and 2010.



Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People

Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People (ESOP) was founded in 1993 to create organized leadership around issues impacting neighborhood life in the Cleveland area. Over the past several years, much of ESOP's work has focused on foreclosure prevention throughout Ohio. ESOP now operates offices in ten locations outside of Cleveland and blends a model of direct action organizing with foreclosure prevention services. ESOP has become a national leader in the fight to save people's homes, shape national housing policy, and has prevented 15,000 people from losing their homes in the past five years. ESOP continues to organize community residents to hold banks, elected officials and other powers-that-be accountable and make them address the foreclosure crisis and other issues that affect local communities.



UFCW Local 75

UFCW (United Food and Commercial Workers) Local 75 represents those working in supermarkets, drug stores, slaughterhouses, packing and food processing plants and more in over 500 locations in Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky. Nearly 30,000 members strong, Local 75 is one of the largest private sector unions in the state. UFCW Local 75 is a community-based union dedicated to the economic and social well-being of its members, the growth and advancement of the labor movement and developing innovative partnerships with faith and other community partners. UFCW Local 75 works to attain contracts with livable wages, affordable benefits, and job security providing a high standard of living, enhanced quality of life, and economic security for members and their families.



The Northeast Ohio Alliance for Hope

The Northeast Ohio Alliance for Hope (NOAH) is a neighborhood based, non-profit organization in Cuyahoga County that seeks to empower residents by using community organizing to improve the quality of their lives. NOAH serves as an umbrella organization for other non-profits, faith-based institutions and community groups working together to create systemic changes to inequitable practices in local and regional communities. Over the past few years, NOAH has worked on issues impacting East Cleveland such as food equity, vacant properties and land banking, the shutdown of its local post office branch, and the closing and relocation of its local trauma center.



Ohio Baptist State Convention

The Ohio Baptist State Convention, under President Michael Harrison, has grown to more than 70 congregations across eleven cities in Ohio. The Ohio Baptist Convention runs an extensive Get Out The Vote (GOTV) program and has been actively involved in organizing campaigns across the state. The Convention has churches in Toledo, Cleveland, Youngstown, Warren, Alliance, Canton, Massillon, Akron, Cincinnati and Columbus.



SEIU Local 1

SEIU Local 1 unites more than 50,000 property service workers throughout mid-America. Its members include janitors, security officers, residential doormen and maintenance workers, window cleaners, industrial workers, and theater and stadium workers. Together, members are winning livable wages as well as working with community leaders to advocate for the quality services the public deserves and the good jobs our communities need. SEIU Local 1's most recent Ohio campaigns include working for livable wages and health care benefits for Sodexo employees at Ohio Universities and Securitas employees.



UFCW Local 1059

UFCW Local 1059 represents members in 47 counties in central, north-northwest, and south-southeast Ohio. UFCW members work at supermarkets, drug stores, slaughterhouses, packing and food processing plants, and other business in central Ohio. UFCW Local 1059 plays a key role in many community coalitions such as Jobs with Justice and Ohio Voice and works to attain contracts with livable wages, affordable benefits, and job security providing a high standard of living, enhanced quality of life, and economic security for members and their families.



CWA District 4

CWA (Communication Workers of America) District 4 includes over 200 local unions that represent workers in telecommunications, informational technology, publishing, print and electronic media, manufacturing, higher education, local government and health care. CWA in Ohio has long been a leader in community labor partnerships helping to form all of the Jobs With Justice groups in the state, leading the Stand Up for Ohio Coalition in 2011, being on the forefront of the repeal of SB5, and most recently defending voting rights for all Ohioans.



Kirwan Institute at OSU

The central mission of the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity is to contribute meaningfully to the field of research and scholarship on race, ethnicity and social justice, to assist in reframing the way that we talk about, think about and act on race and ethnicity, and to deepen the understanding of the causes and consequences of and solutions to racial and ethnic hierarchy and disparity so that we can envision and realize a society that is fair and just for all people, where opportunity is not limited by race, ethnicity, gender, or class, where democratic ideals inform social policy, and where all people recognize and embrace the universal responsibility that each person has for the welfare of every other person. All of our research and scholarship is intended to have an implicit or explicit impact on policies in the real world. By creating a research-based structural lens to look at racism, we are shifting not only the way that racism is conceptualized, but also the way we conceive of strategies to counteract its impact. In shifting the way we talk about, think about and act on race, we hope to give new meaning to the proposition that human destinies are intertwined.



Policy Matters Ohio

Policy Matters Ohio is a non-profit policy research organization founded in January 2000 to broaden the debate about economic policy in Ohio. In 2008, the Nation magazine named Policy Matters the most valuable state or regional organization in the country. Our mission is to create a more fair, prosperous, sustainable and inclusive Ohio, through research, media work and policy advocacy. Ohio faces enormous challenges from the global recession, three decades of deindustrialization, rising inequality, and global warming. We also see tremendous opportunity to reinvest in Ohio's workers, children, cities and infrastructure, to forge an economy that works better for all.

POLICY
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Ohio Justice and Policy Center

The Ohio Justice & Policy Center (OJPC) is a non-profit law office that works for productive reform of Ohio's criminal justice system. Through collaboration, research, community education and litigation, OJPC advocates for a smart-on-crime, evidence-based approach to criminal justice. Currently OJPC is promoting the rehabilitation of formerly incarcerated individuals, enabling them to successfully integrate into the community, and eliminating racial disparities in the criminal justice system.



**We are more powerful when we come together;
the OOC helps us win on more statewide issues.**

Inez Killingsworth, Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People

