Thank you for taking the time to learn more about the impact we are having in our communities. This annual report captures our first complete fiscal year of operations as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

Despite challenges posed by the ongoing pandemic — and thanks to support from donors, friends and volunteers in the communities we serve — Voces Unidas in 2021 continued to elevate the voices of Latinas and Latinos and create opportunities where we could advocate for ourselves and lead in our own communities.

We reached nearly 120,000 people in 2021. We invested in the growth and education of more than 260 local Latina and Latino leaders. We involved more than 1,600 leaders in our advocacy and policy campaigns and engaged more than 33,000 Latino voters in the 2021 election cycle.

As an advocacy organization, we worked hard to elevate the voices of Latinas and Latinos in the central-mountain region. And our voices were heard at the State Capitol where, together with partners, we helped pass 13 pro-immigrant and pro-Latino pieces of legislation. We were also heard during the state’s redistricting process, where our advocacy helped inform new maps where Latinos now make up a significant percentage of the voting population in our local districts. Lastly, our voices were definitely heard in the ballot box, where Latino voters helped defeat three statewide ballot initiatives.

In 2021, we also strategically affiliated with Voces Unidas Action Fund, an independent 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization, to work on areas of common interest, like public policy. Lastly, we also partnered with other statewide organizations to launch the first-of-its-kind Colorado Latino Policy Agenda, an annual report informed by one of the largest polls commissioned of Colorado Latino voters to identify policy priorities and solutions at the local, state and federal levels.

We accomplished all of this while also dedicating much of the year to supporting the community with pandemic response, including vaccinations. Thanks to our board members, staff, consultants, leaders, volunteers, and donors, we supported more than 3,400 people in 2021 with direct services, financial aid or ensured that they received a COVID-19 vaccine in one of our grassroots, volunteer-led vaccination clinics.

Voces Unidas and our leaders took a seat at many tables where we had been missing for far too long. With your support, we achieved much more than we ever expected in 2021, and are excited to build on this momentum going forward.

With gratitude,

Alex Sánchez
President and CEO
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Voces Unidas had both virtual and in-person programs in 2021 (photo credit: Kathleen Lavine)
OUR STORY

Voces Unidas de las Montañas was founded in May 2020 by local Latina and Latino leaders and is the first Latino-created, Latino-led advocacy nonprofit in the central-mountain region of Colorado. The central-mountain region of Colorado includes Summit, Lake, Eagle, Pitkin, and Garfield counties.

The organization was founded to elevate the voices of Latinas and Latinos, create opportunities where Latinas and Latinos can advocate for themselves, and increase Latina and Latino representation and participation at decision-making tables. Voces Unidas is headquartered in Glenwood Springs. Post pandemic, the organization will open satellite offices in other mountain towns.

CENTRAL-MOUNTAIN REGION

Leadership

We support the growth and education of Latina and Latino leaders through culturally and linguistically effective leadership programs. These programs place leaders in opportunities where they can lead in their own communities to create systems change. [learn more →]

Advocacy/policy

We organize and mobilize Latina and Latino leaders to change inequitable systems. We also advocate to change and improve public policies at the local, state and federal level. [learn more →]

Civic Engagement

We educate and mobilize Latino voters to increase participation in local elections. The civic-education programs include non-partisan voter registration drives, issue education and get-out-the-vote initiatives. [learn more →]

Resources

We take our role as an organization very seriously because we know that we are a trusted community resource. We do our part to provide essential information and connect our leaders to critical resources. [learn more →]
LEADERSHIP

OUR GOAL

Place more Latinas and Latinos in positions of power at the local level to create systemic change to better meet the needs of Latinos in the central-mountain region.

LÍDERES INSTITUTE

The Líderes Institute offers intensive, cohort-based leadership training courses to prepare and place Latina and Latino leaders in positions of power across the central mountain region. In 2021, Voces Unidas graduated eight Latina and Latino leaders in the inaugural, four-week course on nonprofit board leadership. These eight leaders currently serve on local and regional nonprofit boards. [learn more →]

LATINO NETWORK

The Latino Network is a year-long leadership program for Latinas and Latinos already practicing leadership in their communities. In 2021, Voces Unidas graduated six graduates, who met once a month and participated in several full-day retreats to share, learn and grow as leaders. [learn more →]

CHARLAS CON LÍDERES

Charlas con líderes is a speaker series that serves as an opportunity for our local Latino community to meet other Latina and Latino leaders who are thriving in their own leadership journeys. In 2021, Voces Unidas hosted several conversations with current and former elected officials, activists, poets, and others.

OTHER

In 2021, 222 additional leaders volunteered in service projects and/or participated in other leadership support activities.

LEADERSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

261 Number of leaders who took part in our leadership programming, supports or events in 2021

170 Number of leaders who volunteered their time and talents in service projects in 2021

14 Number of leaders who graduated in 2021 from the Líderes Institute and Latino Network programs
Advocacy/Policy

Our Goal

Increase the number of Latino and Latina advocates to create systemic change and drive pro-Latino policy at the local, state and federal policy levels.

Legislative Session

Voces Unidas partnered with our affiliate organization, Voces Unidas Action Fund, to educate lawmakers and advocate for better policies during the 2021 legislative session. We supported 14 bills in the 2021 legislative session, 13 of which became law, including Senate Bills 77 and 199, which removed prohibitions on providing state and local benefits to undocumented people and repealed a provision requiring the establishment of “lawful presence” dating back to 2006. [Learn more →]

The 2021 Legislative Session Was One of the Most Pro-Immigrant and Pro-Latino Sessions in Recent History.

Priority Legislation Passed in 2021

» SB 9: Reproductive Health Care Program
» SB 77: Remove Lawful Presence Verification
» SB 87: Agricultural Workers’ Rights
» SB 131: Data Privacy Bill
» SB 199: Remove Barriers to Certain Public Benefits
» HB 1054: Housing Public Benefit Verification Requirement
» HB 1057: Extortion of Immigrants
» HB 1060: U Visa Certification
» HB 1075: Replace Term Illegal Alien
» HB 1150: Office of New Americas
» HB 1194: Immigration Legal Defense Fund
» HB 1266: Environmental Justice Disproportionate Impacted Community
» HB 1318: Create Outdoor Equity Grant Program

Advocacy/Policy by the Numbers

1,606
Number of leaders who took part in our advocacy and policy work in 2021

13
Number of our priority bills that became law in 2021
LATINO ADVOCACY DAY
Voces Unidas partnered with other organizations to co-convene the 2021 Latino Advocacy Day (LAD), an annual event that creates opportunities for leaders to meet with their elected policymakers in Denver during the legislative session. Despite pandemic restrictions limiting in-person gatherings and causing a delay in legislative proceedings, more than 200 people participated virtually in 2021 to influence legislation at the State Capitol. [learn more →]

LATINO POLICY AGENDA
The Colorado Latino Policy Agenda, an initiative of Voces Unidas and COLOR, publishes an annual report to help advocacy organizations, lawmakers and communities address policy issues of importance to Latinos. The first-ever report released in November 2021 was informed by three research instruments: a statewide poll of 1,000 Latino adults conducted via phone and online; responses from 168 Latino community leaders in an online survey; and in-person community forums in three regions of the state. [learn more →]

POLICY FORUM
Voces Unidas held a full-day policy forum in Glenwood Springs with 64 Latino leaders representing eight different communities from the central-mountain region to develop community-based solutions and identify policy priorities at the local, state and federal level. The feedback collected helped informed Voces Unidas’ legislative priorities in 2022. [learn more →]

REDistricting
Every 10 years, political boundaries for legislative and congressional districts are redrawn to account for population changes captured in the Census. Voces Unidas was deeply involved in the 2021 process, turning out more than 10 people to testify, publishing op-eds and lobbying the commissions to keep our Latino communities in the mountain regions concentrated in the fewest districts possible.

INFLUENCING LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES
» Voces Unidas helped influence five legislative district boundaries that now better reflect and expand Latino voting influence in the central-mountain region: HD57 – Aspen to Parachute; HD26 - Includes Gypsum to Vail; HD13 – Includes Leadville to Silverthorne; SD5 - Includes Aspen to Parachute; SD8 – Includes Gypsum to Silverthorne.

INFLUENCING CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES
» While the congressional map failed to keep our Latino communities from Parachute to Silverthorne in a single district, Voces Unidas was influential in stopping the congressional redistricting commission from drastically reducing the Latino population percentage in CD3. [learn more →]

OTHER
More than 140 additional leaders participated in other advocacy activities, including workshops, trainings, petition-signings, letter-writing and in organizing activities.

IF LATINOS ARE NOT AT THE TABLE WE END UP ON THE MENU. THIS IS WHY WE MUST BE INVOLVED IN ALL DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES.

ADVOCACY POLICY BY THE NUMBERS

1,232
Number of leaders who helped inform our policy priorities and the Colorado Latino Policy Agenda in 2021

200+
Number of leaders who participated (virtually) in the 2021 Latino Advocacy Day
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

OUR GOAL

Increase the participation of Latinas and Latinos in local and statewide elections to win on policy and ensure that elected officials are responsive to the needs of Latinos.

VOTER EDUCATION

Voter education includes producing ballot guides and developing online tools to help inform voters. In 2021, Voces Unidas produced and mailed a nonpartisan ballot guide to 10,168 Latino voters. The guide offered information on where and when to return mail ballots, and included our position on three statewide ballot issues.

VOTER ENGAGEMENT

Voter-engagement efforts include contacting voters via phone, text and in person to have one-on-one conversations about policy issues. We also reach voters with nonpartisan voter education and reminders in the mail and online. In 2021, Voces Unidas engaged more than 33,000 registered Latina and Latino voters in advance of the Nov. 2021 elections.

VOTER PROTECTION

Voter protection includes defending access to the ballot and voting rights through litigation, education and information. In 2021, Voces Unidas worked to ensure that an emergency (the pandemic) was not used as an excuse to reduce the number of polling places, which is a well-known voter-suppression strategy. We also expressed our concerns over armed individuals and groups who gathered at polling places in order to intimidate voters.

Since the launch of Voces Unidas in 2020 we have seen significant increases to Latino voter turnout, proving that engagement and education work.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT BY THE NUMBERS

33,047
Number of Latina and Latino voters engaged during the 2021 election cycle to increase Latino voter turnout

10,168
Number of Latina and Latino voters receiving nonpartisan voter education in the mail in 2021
OUR GOAL
Support and connect leaders to essential services which in turn ensures successful outcomes in our key programs.

PROMOTORAS (PILOT PROGRAM)
Voces Unidas piloted a promotora program in 2021 to offer culturally and linguistically competent one-on-one assistance and case management during the peak of the Delta variant—from roughly January to April. When Garfield County went against their own health department’s recommendation to invest in culturally competent outreach to support Latinos during the pandemic, Voces Unidas decided to model and pilot the work to show how it could be done. Our six promotoras managed 472 cases.

VACCINE EQUITY
Voces Unidas operated volunteer-led community vaccination clinics inside local churches, recreation centers and in empty parking lots to increase more access points for Latinos who were being left behind by the traditional health system during the pandemic.

In 2021, we vaccinated more than 3,000 people in Summit, Eagle, Pitkin and Garfield counties, thanks to the support of the Governor's Vaccine Equity Team. Additionally, we launched a Spanish-language radio campaign to promote vaccine safety and increase Latino participation in the COVID vaccination program.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Voces Unidas established an emergency fund to support program participants with emergency financial assistance during crises. We supported members of our community with rent assistance and other needs due to COVID and other non-COVID related emergencies.

OTHER
Other support in 2021 included sponsorships for community members to engage in local athletic leagues and support for other community events.

RESOURCES BY THE NUMBERS

3,489
Number of people supported with direct services, financial aid and/or who received a vaccine at a Voces Unidas community clinic in 2021

472
Number of cases managed by our 6 promotoras during the peak of the Delta variant
2021 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Income: $1,735,337

- Contributions 25.8%
- Grants 73.0%
- Other 0.5%
- Government 0.7%

Expenses: $628,853

- Programs 79.6%
- Management/General 15.6%
- Fundraising 4.8%

Spending By Program

- Advocacy/Policy 32.0%
- Leadership 29.5%
- Services/COVID 22.5%
- Civic Engagement 16.0%

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This is a summary of our unaudited 2021 financials. For audited financials, please visit our website at vocesunidas.org/annual-reports. Income includes restricted and unrestricted multi-year gifts and grants accrued in 2021. Contributions includes individual donors, donor-advised gifts and organizational donors.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Beatriz Soto
Chair

Dusti Gurule
Treasurer and Secretary

Brisa Chavez

Claudia Fragoso

VOCES UNIDAS DE LAS MONTAÑAS

MAIN OFFICE
214 8th Street
Suite 210
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601

SATellite OFFICE
303 E. 17th Ave
Suite 400
Denver, CO 80203

EAGLE-VAIL OFFICE
Opening in 2022

970-340-8501
vocesunidas.org
P. O. Box 3157
Glenwood Springs, CO 81602

EIN 85-0993139
2021 DONORS & SUPPORTERS

Our work to elevate the voices of Latinas and Latinos in the central-mountain region and to create opportunities to advocate for ourselves and lead in our own communities would not be possible without the support of the following groups and individuals.

ORGANIZATIONS

Aspen Community Foundation
Aspen Skiing Company
Aspen Skiing Company’s Caring for Colorado Fund
Bamboo Fund
Benefit Community Impact Fund
Bethel Party Rentals
Brett Family Foundation
Brewer-Kemena Fund
Caring for Colorado Foundation
CCY Architects
Chambers Fund
Climate and Clean Energy Equity Fund
Colorado Centennial Fund at Caring for Colorado Foundation
Colorado Democracy Network
Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR)
Community First Foundation
COVID-19 Regional Response Fund at Aspen Community Foundation
FirstBank
General Service Foundation
Kairos Fund
Latino Colorado CBO Fund Initiative, a collaboration between Hispanic Federation, Latino Community Foundation of Colorado and The Denver Foundation
Latino Community Foundation of Colorado
Mighty Arrow Family Foundation
Mountain Temp Services, LLC
Network For Good
New Venture Fund
Our Part
Rocky Mountain Health Plans
Sage Fund
Schiff Family Charitable Fund
State of Colorado
Stephanus Family Foundation
The Colorado Health Foundation
The Colorado Trust Staff-Directed Contributions Program
The Gateway Fund II of The Denver Foundation
The Idea Marketing, Inc.
Others who wish to remain anonymous

INDIVIDUALS

Adam Quinton
Alex DeGolia
Alex Sánchez
Amina Simon
Andrea Palm-Porter
Ann Johnson
Beatriz Soto
Berenice Forest
Bill Spencer
Blanca O'Leary
Brandon Kinnard
Brisa Chavez
Bryana Starbuck
Carlos Martinez
Carrie Lynn Newton
Catherine Carlson
Catherine Leonaitis
Chaer Robert
Charles Hopton
Christie Leonard
Christy Powell
Claire Wright
Claudia Fragoso Ramirez
Claudia Salmeron
Colin Laird
Colleen Loughlin
Cynthia Beard
Daniel Ramos
Debbie Bruell
Diana Scherr
Dusti Gurule
Edward Sands
Elizabeth Garcia
Ellen Birk
Emma Gruner
Evelyn Corral
Gina Millan
Hery Miguel Lan
Janet Baumann
Jasmin Ramirez
Jenny Trumble
Jerome Dayton
Jill Soffer
Joan Northrup
JP & Shirley Powers
Judith Blanchard
Julie Olson
Karen Tomb
Karl and Barbara Friedman
Kate Duch
Katelyn Henion
Katie Langenuhizen
KCI Becker
Lara Beaulieu
Larry Bogatz
Laurie Loeb
Leslie Robinson
Linda and Richard Morris
Lisa Relou
Marcie and Robert Musser
Marco Dorado
Marjorie Lear
Mark Giesecke
Matt Scherr
Matt Smith
Megan Van Ens
Melissa Decker
Michael Brewer
Michael Kurnik
Mike and Laura Kaplan
Misha White
Nicholas Ferrara
Paige and Michael Henchen
Patti Stanahan
Paul Rosenthal
Peter Bakken
Rachael Richards
Raleigh Burleigh
Richard Gonzales
Rick and Judy Schiff
Rita Mary Hennigan
Rob Pew
Rob Stein
Roger Wilson
Ross Brooks
Russell Crawford-Arensman
Ruth Barreto
Sally Sparhawk
Sarah Moss
Shirley Powers
Stephanie Tanny
Steven Child
Sue Edelstein
Susan Hartnett
Susan Northleaf
Suzuho Shimasaki
Terri and Rich Silvka
Timothy Francis
Tony Massaro
Trina Ortega
Vanessa Biebl
Vanessa Millan
Walter Gallerich
William Gray
William Roush
Yesenia Arreola
Others who wish to remain anonymous