

ABOUT US

Communities Organized for Public Service (**COPS**) was founded in San Antonio in 1974 and the Metro Alliance formed in the 1980s. They merged in 2016, creating **COPS/Metro**. COPS/Metro is one of sixty-five Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) network organizations.

IAF is a network of broad-based organizations across the country. Membership in these organizations is institutional. Congregations, schools, unions, and community organizations join to magnify their impact on their neighborhoods and communities. At root, an IAF organization is a vehicle to train ordinary people in the habits and practices of democratic life.

COPS/Metro member institutions are a crucial voice for the San Antonio community. By bringing together institutions to build an agenda around their shared interests and concerns, COPS/Metro builds power to change communities for the better.

Member institutions make annual financial commitments to ensure COPS/Metro is secure, independent, and accountable to them. COPS/Metro also receives foundation grants and corporate contributions. COPS/Metro does not accept support, financial or otherwise, from government entities.



ORGANIZERS/LEADERS

COPS/Metro organizers identify and develop **leaders** from within member institutions. Leaders learn how to analyze power relationships in their communities, build a constituency, and negotiate with local government and business so that they have a voice in the decisions that affect their lives.

Leaders from member institutions are the governing board members of COPS/Metro. There are co-chairs and an executive team. They organize within their own member institutions and give overall strategic direction to COPS/Metro organizers.

COPS/Metro leaders have developed an agenda focused on economic security, immigration, housing, and increasing voter participation in Bexar County. Other areas of concern include infrastructure, education, and healthcare. In actions through the year, **COPS/Metro leaders** hold elected officials accountable to their agenda of issues.

FUNDING

COPS/Metro's budget primarily supports the training and development of leaders from member institutions. Our funding comes from three sources:

- Membership Dues
- Corporate Contributions
- Foundation Grants

Each member institution pays annual dues according to its size. Dues from member institutions are a critical part of COPS/Metro's organizing philosophy: they create ownership among members and allow COPS/Metro to set its own issues agenda.

COPS/Metro is grateful to the corporate contributors and foundations who believe in our work and provide us programmatic funding to support various initiatives of mutual interest.

2018 Corporate Contributors

- HEB - \$60,000
- Frost Bank - \$40,000
- USAA - \$25,000
- Broadway Bank - \$12,000

2018 Foundation Grants

- Interfaith Education Fund \$125,000
- Needmore Fund - \$40,000



RECENT VICTORIES

Economic Security: In September 2018, COPS/Metro completed its current phase of the wage campaign raising the minimum wage for employees of the City of San Antonio and Bexar County to \$15 per hour. Additionally, COPS/Metro secured \$2.2 million from the city for Project QUEST, a job training program created by COPS/Metro that moves people from poverty-wage jobs to the middle class.

Immigration: In 2018, COPS/Metro secured continued funding for a legal defense fund and signed up over 10,000 voters in support of COPS/Metro's immigration agenda.

Housing: In 2018, COPS/Metro secured \$6.5 million in funds for rehabbing the homes of low-income homeowners, an increase from \$1.8 million in 2016.

GOTV: COPS/Metro block walked and phone banked, reminding voters in the 2018 primaries and general election to hold candidates accountable to COPS/Metro's housing, immigration and economic security agenda. The organization reached more than 15,000 families, and the results were clear: voters targeted by COPS/Metro turned out at a rate 80% higher than the voters countywide. With one exception, the candidates supporting COPS/Metro's agenda were elected.

MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

There are four components to membership in COPS/Metro:

- To build a team of leaders responsible for organizing within the institution.
- To participate in the broad-based organization of institutions.
- To build relationships within and among member institutions.
- To pay institutional membership dues. Member institutions make annual financial commitments to ensure COPS/Metro is secure and independent.

For more information about membership in COPS/Metro, contact the COPS/Metro office to speak to a leader or organizer.

COPS/Metro

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COPS/Metro creates common ground to make San Antonio a better place for families.

We make democracy work by identifying and training leaders, developing organizers, and building a culture of public life.