# From Pandemic to Progress

THE CENTURY FOUNDATION 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Public policy is all around us. From street signs to your access to public education to the quality of life that you're able to live.

DIANA MARTINEZ, NEXT100 POLICY ENTREPRENEUR

# Friends,

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought unbearable hardship, but the nation's collective response to it has made one thing clearer than ever before: policy matters. When America's *systems* are broken it's *people* who pay the price. With your help, The Century Foundation is helping the nation's leaders to deliver transformational changes to policy that will make people's lives better.

- We helped lift 3 million children in families across the country out of poverty by championing the expanded Child Tax Credit that puts real money in families' pockets.
- We successfully made the case for expanding unemployment benefits, and guided policy makers as they distributed more than \$680 billion in emergency aid, enabling tens of millions of jobless Americans to keep a roof over their head and food on the table.
- As schools went online overnight for the first time in U.S. history, we set up resources to support school leaders, and our nation's English learner educators in particular, recognizing that their students would be among those most impacted by this unprecedented disruption to schools nationwide.
- Among the first to sound the alarm that communities of color would be hardest hit by the pandemic, we gathered the nation's leading experts to chart a path forward. We advocated for racial equity to be at the forefront of the nation's public health response to COVID-19 and demanded that people who are Black and Brown, Indigenous, disabled, immigrants, pregnant, and more are supported to feel safe, access help, and get vaccinated.
- We joined forces with Robin Hood to develop a bold and ambitious policy agenda to create a more fair, equitable, and just New York City. The agenda drew on the perspectives of 4,000 New Yorkers, spans child care, education, economy and jobs, housing, policing, and human services, and would meaningfully reduce poverty in one of the cities hardest hit by COVID-19.
- We continue to invest in the next generation of diverse public policy leaders, supporting our second cohort of Policy Entrepreneurs in our start-up think tank, Next100. Next100 is working to change the face and future of progressive policy. Policy for those with the most at stake, by those with the most at stake.

The Century Foundation is now helping to shape the next wave of major investments in our nation's future. As I draft this letter to you, the Biden administration and Congress are on the cusp of passing a once-in-a-generation legislative agenda that would significantly advance TCF's core mission by expanding child care, improving Black maternal health, strengthening benefits for people with disabilities, and more.

Our expert staff—working on education, health care, economic opportunity, and international affairs—is dedicated to providing essential and brave policy recommendations, backed by countless hours of rigorous research. They are connected to legislative leaders and are poised to do their part—but they need your help.

With your financial support, we can continue this work that touches every corner of American life.

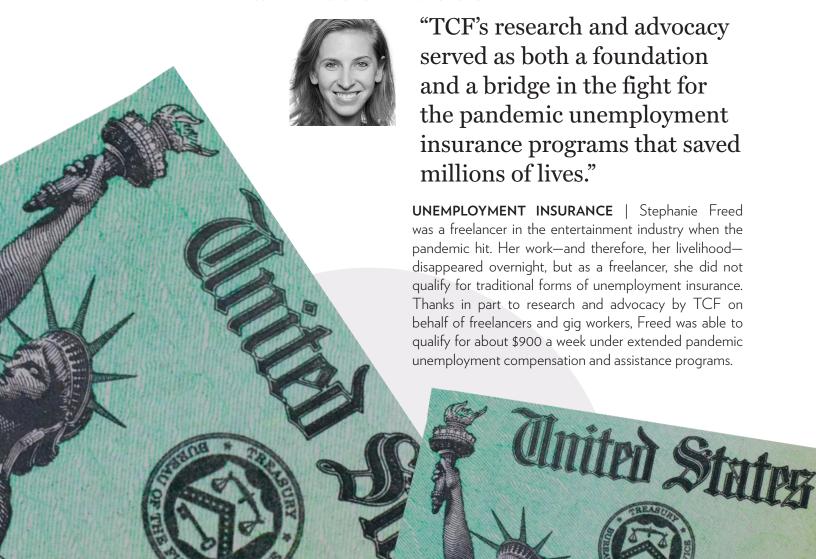
President, The Century Foundation

Sincerely

# An Economy that Works for All

Over the past year, our experts have been at the forefront of national debates on unemployment benefits and the COVID-19 economic recovery, reducing child poverty, expanding access to quality, affordable child care, strengthening disability benefits, and more. Our policy research and recommendations have helped shape once-in-a-generation changes that will transform the U.S. economy as we know it.

STEPHANIE FREED, CO-FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF EXTENDPUA,ORG



"I'm exhausted from all the uncertainty. I'm only working part-time because the costs are so high. Affordable, reliable child care will be a gamechanger for our family."

**CHILD CARE** | Deborah Purce is a mother of three living in Seattle with her husband, an essential health care worker. Her husband's hours are long and unpredictable, a situation exacerbated by the pandemic, and Deborah has had to reduce her own working hours because full-time child care is simply unaffordable. If the child care provisions in the Build Back Better Act pass, which were shaped by TCF, nine out of ten families in America will pay less for child care.



#### AMANDA, A SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME RECIPIENT

"With an SSI raise we could afford groceries for the entire month. Maybe even afford to rent an apartment that is safe and clean. We on SSI don't ask for luxuries. We just want basic human dignity."

**DISABILITY** | Nearly 8 million of the nation's poorest seniors and disabled people, including more than one million disabled children, rely on Supplemental Security Income to survive—but outdated rules and inadequate benefits now trap millions in deep poverty. That's why TCF is fighting to increase benefits for millions of Americans with disabilities and seniors, and to extend the program to residents of Puerto Rico and the U.S. territories, who have been unjustly excluded for decades.

**CHILD TAX CREDIT** | In July 2021, in part thanks to TCF's tireless efforts, families across America began receiving monthly checks of \$250 to \$300 per child from the government to help them raise their children. This policy alone impacted 60 million children in families across the country.



Three million children were lifted out of poverty in 2021 due to the expanded Child Tax Credit championed by TCF.



# Dismantling Inequities in Health Care

The COVID-19 pandemic laid bare that the American health care system is beset with inequalities that contribute to gaps in health insurance coverage, uneven access to services, and poorer health outcomes. TCF's health care equity team is working to close those gaps, with a particular focus on reducing racial disparities. In the past year we have advocated for fairer access to COVID-19 treatment and vaccines, championed reproductive justice and maternal health, and taken a stand for fairer, more equitable health care for all.

#### MICHELLE BURRIS. TCF FELLOW AND GRANDDAUGHTER TO MS. DAVIS

"Overall, the experience was horrific, but I'm grateful my grandmother was vaccinated. It was sad to see elderly and disabled people treated this way."



EQUITABLE HEALTH CARE | Ms. Dorothy Davis, a 91-year-old African American woman living with speech and physical disabilities, was accompanied by her caretaker and granddaughter to get vaccinated on February 27 in Prince George's County, Maryland. They had to wait for hours. In line, they were among over forty elderly and disabled people braving the frigid temperatures outside of the facility without chairs. On behalf of Ms. Davis and others like her, TCF has continued to advocate for more equitable COVID-19 vaccination access.

In memory of Dorothy Marie Davis, 1930–2021.

Black women are three times more likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause than white women.

# 3 TIMES

MATERNAL HEALTH | Over half of pregnancy-related deaths occur in the postpartum period. But despite the high rates of death in the weeks and months following birth, many women and birthing people become uninsured just sixty days after giving birth. In 2021, following extensive advocacy by TCF and others, Congress is set to extend Medicaid funding to provide continuous coverage for the full year postpartum. This change will benefit an estimated 117,000 uninsured new mothers each year, for a total of nearly 1.2 million over ten years.



CONGRESSWOMAN LAUREN UNDERWOOD GIVING THANKS TO TCF DIRECTOR OF HEALTH CARE REFORM AND SENIOR FELLOW DR. JAMILA TAYLOR



"Thank you for your important research in the urgent topic of postpartum Medicaid coverage and thank you for your ongoing work to achieve true maternal health equity. You have been an incredible partner for the Black Maternal Health Caucus ever since its founding and I am so grateful for all that you do."

TCF has led the development of a collective of Black women working in federal maternal health policy who have become the go-to resource for Hill offices crafting and advancing maternal health legislation.



REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS | "Passing the Women's Health Protection Act (WHPA) is vital to stopping this attack on abortion access at the state level... WHPA would create a statutory right for individuals to be able to access abortion, and for health care providers to provide abortion, free from medically unnecessary restrictions." — Dr. Jamila Taylor, TCF director of health care reform and senior fellow, in written testimony before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on abortion rights and "Protecting Roe," June 2021

500

In 2021, states have introduced well over 500 laws restricting abortion access, and passed over 100.

#### TCF BY THE NUMBERS

# Driving Policy Change to Make People's Lives Better

Our mission is to conduct research, develop policy solutions, and drive policy change to make people's lives better. In the past year, we worked tirelessly with communities, researchers, and policy makers in the pursuit of transformative policy change.

# \$25 MILLIO

\$25 million was allocated to fund the Manufacturing Communities Program, an investment championed by TCF together with partners on the ground.



## 92,000 BORROWERS

\$1.5 billion in federal student loan debt was forgiven for nearly 92,000 borrowers in 2021 following more than four years of work by TCF to expose the backlog of claims and demand justice for students.





# Advancing Education in the Face of a Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic became a colossal test for the nation's education system. As challenges mounted, TCF remained steadfast in its long held commitment to advancing equity by focusing on the most vulnerable students. We set up resources and tools for educators in some of the country's most segregated and unequal school districts, provided targeted support to educators working with English language learners, and continued our years-long battle to make college more affordable, taking concrete steps to ensure students enrolled in higher education had the support they needed to succeed.



**THE BRIDGES COLLABORATIVE** | Amid the pandemic, TCF launched the Bridges Collaborative, a first-of-its-kind initiative to bring together leaders from 57 school districts, charter schools, and housing organizations from across the country, representing more than 3.5 million students, to reignite a nationwide movement for integrated schools and diverse neighborhoods. Collaborative members are given the space and opportunity to learn from one another, build grassroots political support, and develop successful strategies for integration.

JODY IAN GOELER, SUPERINTENDENT, HAMDEN PUBLIC SCHOOL AND A MEMBER OF TCF'S BRIDGES COLLABORATIVE

"As we continue our school desegregation efforts, our involvement with the Collaborative and our community's awareness of our involvement has given our work the credibility it needs to succeed."



62,500 extra kindergarten students will be offered accelerated learning each year in New York City public schools under changes put forth by TCF to eliminate outdated admissions tests for the city's four year olds.

62,500

EARLY EDUCATION | NEW YORK CITY MAYOR, BILL DE BLASIO ANNOUNCING THAT NEW YORK CITY WILL NO LONGER REQUIRE FOUR-YEAR-OLDS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO PARTICIPATE IN TESTING AND TRACKING, A POLICY CHANGE PUT FORTH BY TCF





"[TCF Senior Fellow Halley Potter] has literally dedicated her life to addressing the inequalities that pervade public education and looking for new solutions... Work which I'm sure at times felt lonely, but more and more people are realizing is the work we have to do to reach every child and get truly equal education for all."

**COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY** | TCF has continued to make the case for nationwide free community college, which is closer than ever to becoming a reality in the United States, and has advocated for major investments in Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to reverse decades of unequal funding to these essential institutions. As part of our national efforts to make college more accessible to all, TCF has been advising California policymakers on how to make college more affordable for students in that state since 2018. This past year, the California state legislature enacted key provisions of TCF's plan, newly expanding student aid eligibility to 133,000 additional community college students. These changes finally make college more attainable for students previously locked out of the system or less likely to succeed due to unfair financial burdens.

**COLLEGE ACCOUNTABILITY** | TCF's years-long fight to protect students from predatory for-profit colleges got results this year, when \$1.5 billion in federal student loan debt was forgiven for nearly 92,000 borrowers, following work by our experts to expose the backlog of claims and demand justice for students and taxpayers. And as colleges of all types rapidly turned to for-profit companies to help run their online learning programs during the pandemic, no organization has done more to educate the public and policy makers of the dangers of these agreements—and what needs to be done to protect students—than TCF.

#### **ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS**

ALICIA PASSANTE, ESL PROGRAM MANAGER, CENTER CITY PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS, ONE OF 700 EDUCATORS SUPPORTED BY TCF'S EL VIRTUAL LEARNING FORUM, NOW EL RECOVERY FORUM, SET UP IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC "The Forum set up by TCF was a necessary space for English learner stakeholders to give and get ideas during an incredibly challenging time. It provided me a safe space to process the pandemic, analyze its impact on multilingual students, and brainstorm pathways forward."

# Transforming Who Has a Say in Making and Shaping Public Policy

TCF is helping to build a new, more diverse generation of public policy leaders and actively lifting underrepresented voices and perspectives into the policy debate, because we believe the future of our nation depends on it.

ISABEL BANDA, A LOW-INCOME AND FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT FROM HOUSTON, TEXAS AND TCF SUMMER SCHOLAR 2021



"The most rewarding part of my program experience is the connections I was able to make and the exposure to public policy. I truly learned so much about public policy, the government, and research during my time with The Century Foundation."

**SUMMER SCHOLARS** | TCF's Summer Scholars Program provides the opportunity for students and recent graduates to gain experience and skills in public policy by being embedded into a TCF team. The program attracts hundreds of applications a year and is one of the few paid policy internship programs that continued during the pandemic. TCF made the decision to continue this important pipeline program in the face of significant logistical challenges because we believe that diversifying and strengthening the policy field is an essential responsibility.

#### 2021 SUMMER SCHOLARS

**Isabel Banda** Higher Education

Julia Chaffers Next100

Salma Elsayed K-12 Education

**Lydia A. Laramore** *Editorial/Communications* 

**Sabrina Morawej** *Health Care Reform* 

Caroline Osborne K–12 Education

Samantha Wing Labor

# 16,000 HOURS

MORE THAN 16,000 HOURS OF TRAINING AND SUPPORT WAS DELIVERED TO EMERGING LEADERS THROUGH INNOVATIVE TCF INITIATIVES NEXT100 AND THE SUMMER SCHOLARS PROGRAM.

NEXT100 | Next100 is a first-of-its-kind startup think tank founded by TCF in 2019 to change the face and future of progressive policy. In 2021, Next100 launched its second cohort of Policy Entrepreneurs (PEs), a group of eight leaders who bring diversity, lived experience, as well as professional expertise to their policy work. Over the next two years, Next100 PEs will work full-time, driving progressive policy change in and across the areas of education, immigration, criminal justice, housing and design, climate change, and public service.

#### ROSARIO QUIROZ VILLAREAL, NEXT100 ALUMNI



"Laws can change... And if laws can change, then who better to be in those spaces than people who have been directly impacted, people who are directly connected to the harm, and people who can hope for and envision something better."

#### DAN MATHIS, NEXT100 POLICY ENTREPRENEUR



"When I found out I would be joining Next100 I felt seen. It felt like an opportunity to bring not only my whole self to the policymaking space, but to elevate the narratives and perspectives of people like me that don't have the privilege of occupying the same spaces."

#### COHORT 1: 2019-2021

**Levi Bohanan** *Education + Early Years* 

**Isabel Coronado** Criminal Justice

Roquel Crutcher Education + Early Years

**Taif Jany** *Immigration* 

Marcela Mulholland Climate

Michael "Zaki" Smith Criminal Justice

Phela Townsend Economic Opportunity

Rosario Quiroz Villarreal Education + Early Years

#### COHORT 2: 2021-2023

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Alejandra Vázquez Baur Education + Early Years, Immigration

**Lindsey Cazessus** *Economic Opportunity* 

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Vidal Guzman Criminal Justice

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**Dan Mathis**Housing + Design, Climate

Diana Martinez Quintana Climate + Immigration



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## **Financials**

#### FY21 (Unaudited)

INCOME	FY21	%	NOTES
Foundations	5,303,820	58.82%	
Individuals	300,405	3.33%	
Other	3,412,134	37.84%	Investment Income
Total Income	9,016,359	100.00%	Y

EXPENSES	FY21	%
Program	7,600,378	90.86%
Development	201,161	2.40%
Administrative	563,475	6.74%
Total Expenses	8,365,014	100.00%

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Dan Mathis, Housing + Design, Climate
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