



Parent
Organization
Network
Breaking Through Barriers

2021 Impact Report



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 01** Director's Message
- 02** PON's 2021-2023 Strategic Goals
- 03** Progress in 2021
- 04** Priorities in 2022
- 05** Financials
- 06** Acknowledgements

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and Partners:

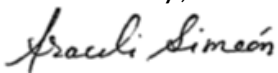
So many families and organizations continued to face difficulties again this year due to the coronavirus. At the top of the list for families of school age children was adjusting to new safety protocols and routines as students returned to instruction in the classroom. At the same time, PON continued its advocacy at the state level on behalf of parents and partnered with families of English Learners to successfully influence LCAPs in three school districts.

We learned so much about the challenges families and educators face in supporting English Learners and other student groups that we are impelled to reground our work in parent training in 2022.

To this end we will be scaling back our advocacy efforts at the state level and investing time and resources to new strands of work: building parent capacity to monitor student learning, and exploring ways to foster cross-cultural solidarity through transformational experiences in the communities where we work. This will ensure parents remain actively engaged in helping their children succeed in school and that they collaborate to support one another in these efforts.

Thank you so much for your support during 2021. We look forward to our continued partnerships and movement building in the new year.

In solidarity,



"We learned so much about the challenges families and educators face in supporting English Learners that we are impelled to reground our work in parent training in 2022."

PON'S 2021-2023 STRATEGIC GOALS

PON's strategic plan identifies five goals in three areas: advocacy, capacity building, and organizational development to advance our mission.



1. Advocacy

To remove barriers to parent engagement and build staff best practices to promote and support parent engagement



2. Capacity Building

To strengthen parent capacity to effectively work with others (i.e., parents, organizations, school officials) on collective projects or campaigns to ensure equity and excellence for all students



3. Organizational Capacity

To strengthen PON's organizational capacity to sustain an effective and efficient parent engagement network



4. Raise Public Profile

To raise our public profile to achieve greater visibility and name recognition, and highlight PON's successes among key stakeholders



5. Diverse Network

To ensure a broad, diverse network of parents, organizations, partners and allies committed to family engagement as a means to achieve educational equity

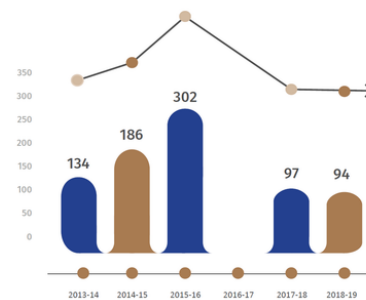
PROGRESS: 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

In this section we highlight six activities or decisions where PON achieved concrete results that influence our work in the new year.

1. Removed Barriers to Engagement

After five years of monitoring LAUSD's issuance of disruptive person letters (DPLs) to parents and after the District implemented training for administrators, **the number of DPLs issued decreased by 68%.**

DPLs issued by LAUSD



2. Influenced Actions in School Districts' Plans & Budgets

Consistent participation from 18 parents in PON's English Learner (EL) Campaign influenced decisions in three school districts' plans and budgets:

- Los Angeles USD: Administrators will co-develop Individualized Reclassification Plans with parents for students identified as Long-Term English Learners or at risk of becoming so.
- Long Beach USD: The board approves funding for a new Multilingual Office and to address parents' language access needs during meetings.
- Pomona USD: The district will invest time and resources to update their EL Master Plan and prioritize family engagement in the process.

3. Provided Evidence-Based Input on State Level Decisions. Impact To Be Seen in 2022

We continued leading research and documenting parents' experiences to provide input on decisions made by the California Department of Education (CDE) and the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC). Our 2021 work included leading advocacy efforts to improve the family engagement local indicator, the Math Framework, and updating bilingual standards, the California Standards for the Teaching Profession (Induction), standards for other certified school staff, and participating in a workgroup to update assessments for early educators.

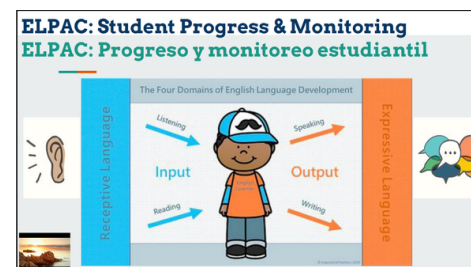


PROGRESS: 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

4. Built Parents' Capacity to Support their English Learners

To help parents support their children and participate in the PON EL Campaign, we offered a three-session training, facilitated by two experts on English language development. About 50 parents attended each training with 33 completing the three sessions on instructional programs, monitoring student progress, and reclassification and beyond. The videos and resources are available on our website at: <https://www.parentnetwork-la.org/els>.

The experience was so rewarding that staff and parents are now developing an eight-session training. In addition, in 2022 we will release a playbook that captures our process to effectively engage parents of ELs.



5. Strengthened PON's Organizational Capacity

This year PON's Advisory Board and Executive Director achieved the following milestones:

- The Community Organizer position became full time
- Staff completed their first performance review and both employees received salary increases
- Our bylaws were updated and a new orientation process was developed. This improves our readiness to welcome new members.

6. Decided to Focus on Cross-Cultural Solidarity in 2022

In 2021 we reflected on ways for PON to engage parents and organizations from African American and Asian American groups. We reviewed other organization practices during the 90's and what they are doing now. We see the division families today are experiencing in our partnering with school districts and across the country and concluded that we must prioritize helping families build common ground.



A key step in this process is to learn about history: our own, others', and to study and learn from moments when groups worked together to change the systems that oppress them. Toward this end goal, PON will work with others to find ways to foster cross-cultural solidarity through transformational experiences in 2022. This initiative also is intentionally including an intergenerational component to ensure parents and children can better understand each other. Some of the activities will be done virtually given the re-surge in the pandemic, but we will find ways for groups to do some of work in person to cultivate relationships so we can achieve the intended outcomes.

PRIORITIES IN 2022

Based on what we learned in 2021 and the needs in the communities we work with, we are prioritizing the following activities in the new year.



New Projects

- Develop ways to help parents monitor student learning, including hosting *cafecitos con PON*, and a new curriculum to engage parents of English Learners in schools. The curriculum is also a strategy to raise fee-for-service revenue to support PON's work.
- Explore ways to include and/or foster cross-cultural solidarity in parent programs, nonprofit organizations, and in new ethnic studies requirements.



Work We Are Continuing

We will continue to advance the practice of meaningful family engagement through research and policy strategies at the state level to improve:

- Educator credentialing and induction requirements;
- Professional development and technical assistance; and
- CDE's math framework.



Changes

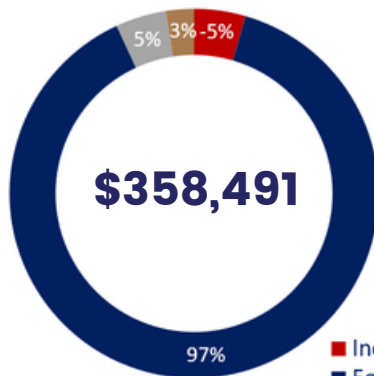
We will continue work related to the Local Control Funding Formula, but **switch** the focus from *state* level advocacy to monitoring implementation of EL strategies in plans and budgets at the *district* level.



2021 Financials

BEGINNING CASH BALANCE: \$57,106

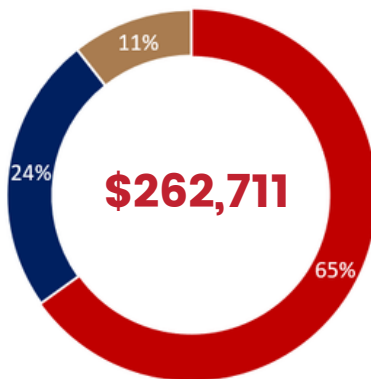
INCOME



In 2021, PON raised \$349,091 or 97% of the revenue from foundation grants. An additional \$17,500 or about 5% was raised from corporation grants. Service fee revenue accounted for 2.7% or \$9,650. This chart also reflects an adjustment of -5% or -\$17,750 to reflect changes that had been previously misclassified as individual contributions. After adjustments are made, the revenue totals \$358,491.

- Individual Contributions
- Foundation Grants
- Corporation Grants
- Service Fee Revenue

EXPENSES



This year PON spent \$171,036 or 65% of the funds raised to pay for personnel salaries and benefits. Almost 11% or \$27,881 paid for fiscal sponsorship fees. The remaining 24% paid for operating expenses, including:

- Consultants: \$45,781 (17.4%) which includes:
 - Research (5.9%)
 - Interpretation and translation (5.6%)
 - Communications, Editing, & Graphic Design (2.8%)
 - Organizational Development (1.5%)
 - Workshop facilitation and curriculum development (0.9%)
- Incentives for parents in the form of stipends, gift cards, and training: \$12,060 (4.5%)
- Supplies, photocopies, photos, technology, and programs to develop content and publications: \$5,953 (2.2%)

- Personnel
- Operating Costs
- Fiscal Sponsor Fees

CHANGES IN BALANCE SHEET

- **Beginning Net Assets:** **(51,364)**
- **Accrued Vacation Payable:** **10,777**

ENDING CASH BALANCE: \$112,299

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PON is extremely grateful for the continuous support we have received throughout the years. Our work would not be possible without our funders, partners, and volunteers who believe in us and the work we do on behalf of parents and families. This year we'd like to acknowledge contributions from:

Funders

California Community Foundation
The California Endowment
Consortium for English Learner Success
The Education Trust- West
Georgetown University's Edunomics Program
Great Public Schools Now
The Sobrato Family Foundation

Partners

Gente Organizada & Padres Unidos
High Expectations
The Knowledge Shop
Latinos In Action
Opportunity Institute
Padres Pioneros
STEM54
TIDES

*We thank you for your continued
support of our efforts.*



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