

**“BPI is a little bit  
of redemption,  
a humanizing  
contribution in  
a world where  
horrors abound.”**

**Gordon Sherman**  
**Founder, BPI**

**BPI** 

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**BPI 50th  
Anniversary Report  
2019**

**“BPI is one of the  
most endearing, useful,  
quixotic, pragmatic,  
worthwhile, honest,  
trustworthy and  
true organizations  
in history.”** 1973

Dorothy Storck, *Chicago American*

# A Word from the President . . .

This year’s “50th anniversaries” have captured the national attention—from Woodstock to Stonewall to the moon. As you know, BPI toasted our first five decades at our gala 50th Anniversary Dinner in May—in the company of over 600 friends old and new, including keynote speaker Mayor Lori Lightfoot.

We all enjoyed the brief look back this celebration afforded, but it’s today’s issues that consume BPI’s attention and efforts every day. The injustices that spurred Gordon Sherman to start BPI in 1969 persist today, limiting the life trajectories of too many people across Chicago and the nation.

We’re proud that BPI’s work over the years has made a significant difference in the lives of thousands of children, families, and individuals, but we’re driven to do

more. Justice demands that we all do more. And, while this report describes the “more” BPI is doing today to combat racial and economic injustice, there has been no change in our overarching goal for the last 50 years: a just society.

There is, though, one big change ahead for BPI. After 20 years as Executive Director, Hoy McConnell will be stepping down from this role in the months ahead. Fortunately

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## . . . and Executive Director

As noteworthy a milestone as it is, our 50th anniversary isn’t the only BPI headline in 2019. As you’ll read in the pages ahead, we’ve charted especially significant progress in each of our programs over the past year.

The landmark settlement in the 53-year-old *Gautreaux* case and its resulting benefits for public housing families and communities . . . our intensive collaboration with the Grassroots Alliance for Police Accountability to advance an ordinance to dramatically reframe policing in Chicago for years to come . . . the vibrant endurance and dynamic programming of our Altgeld-Riverdale Early Learning Initiative, a powerful community effort that now, under the *Gautreaux* settlement, will be introduced in up to four additional CHA developments . . . the imminent launch of BPI’s expansive multi-year Two-Generation Residential

Mobility Demonstration—years in the making—that will empower families in high-poverty neighborhoods to move with a housing voucher to areas with better schools and employment opportunities, a potential game-changer for national housing policy . . . and important new programs in trauma counseling for young children and housing for formerly incarcerated individuals just getting underway this year.

How does a small organization like BPI accomplish so much? A highly competent and dedicated staff, a deeply committed and engaged Board of Directors, hundreds of

for us, he'll stay on the Board, where he has served as a BPI Director for 38 years, including six years as Board President. Under Hoy's extraordinary leadership, BPI launched important new programmatic initiatives in early learning, justice reform, police accountability, government integrity, and affordable housing. His organizational accomplishments are legion as well, from BPI's strong financial position, including our first-ever endowment campaign, to expanded Board and staff diversity, and on his watch, BPI's national recognition as a recipient of the MacArthur Foundation's Award for Creative and Effective Institutions.

A Search Committee composed of BPI Directors has undertaken the daunting task

of identifying Hoy's successor. There will be more to come on this subject all around—more well-deserved accolades for Hoy and the exciting announcement of BPI's new Executive Director. Stay tuned!

Finally, deepest thanks to all who've made possible the good work reported here—our community partners, generous funders and loyal supporters, and fellow advocates. We're deeply grateful to have you standing with us today—as together we face the challenges and promise of BPI's next 50 years.



**Nicholas J. Brunick**  
Board President

generous friends and funders who believe in our mission and support our work, and the collaboration of countless community partners, government officials, and other advocates.

It's been a great privilege to work with all of these individuals over the past 20 years. In fact, it's been one of the great privileges of my life to play a part in the wonderful enterprise that is BPI for nearly 40 years, 20 as Executive Director and 38 and counting as a member of BPI's Board. However, the time is now right for me to resume my role as a BPI Board member and turn the position of Executive Director over to BPI's next leader.

This is not a "good-bye" yet. I just wanted to share here my enormous gratitude for the support and collaboration of BPI's friends and partners. You've inspired



me many times over with your passion for justice and made my time as Executive Director deeply fulfilling on a personal level. With all that remains to be done to achieve "a just society" I'm eager to continue alongside each of you and BPI in its pursuit.

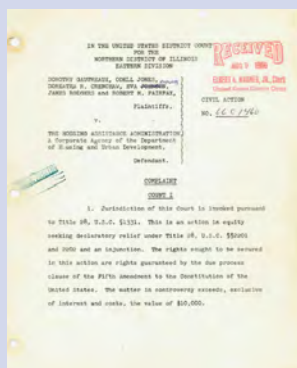


**E. Hoy McConnell, II**  
Executive Director

# Highlights from 50 Years of BPI



**1969**  
In its first year, BPI's "Don't Do It in the Lake" campaign galvanizes public sentiment, and against great odds, helps prevent construction of an airport in Lake Michigan.



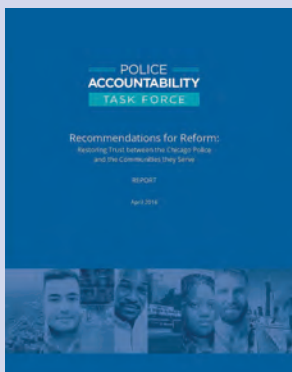
**1970**  
BPI becomes home to the historic *Gautreaux et al. v. Chicago Housing Authority* desegregation case when lead attorney Alexander Polikoff joins BPI as Executive Director.



**1971**  
BPI sues—and eventually wins—to prevent construction of a nuclear power plant in the Indiana Dunes.  
*Photo by Emmelie Callewaert*



**1976**  
BPI's *Gautreaux* victory in the U.S. Supreme Court, establishes the principle that metropolitan-wide remedies are permissible to redress central city housing segregation. The Gautreaux Assisted Housing Program, the nation's first housing mobility program, is launched.



**2012**  
BPI and a broad coalition of community partners launches a comprehensive Early Childhood Learning Initiative in CHA's Altgeld Gardens and the surrounding community.

**2013**  
BPI receives the MacArthur Foundation's Award for Creative and Effective Institutions, one of 15 organizations worldwide so honored this year.

**2016**  
BPI participates on the Mayor's Task Force on Police Accountability and the release of its report, calling for major structural and operating reforms to policing in Chicago.

**2016**  
The Illinois Supreme Court rules unanimously for the Independent Inspector General of Cook County, represented by BPI, affirming the IG's jurisdiction over county offices headed by independently elected officials.



**1983**

BPI files a lawsuit against Commonwealth Edison over safety and cost issues in its nuclear power generation programs. Ten years later, this litigation results in a \$1.3 billion refund to consumers—the largest such public utility refund ever awarded at the time.



**1998**

BPI launches its annual Chicago School Policy Forum series, bringing advocates, educators, and the business and philanthropic communities together to consider pressing school reform topics.



**2003**

BPI leads efforts to secure passage of the Illinois Affordable Housing Planning and Appeal Act (AHPAA), a precedent-setting measure designed to dismantle exclusionary barriers to affordable housing for working families.

Photo by Daniel Schwen



**2018**

BPI partners with the community-based Grassroots Alliance for Police Accountability (GAPA) to introduce an ordinance establishing a new civilian commission for police accountability and oversight in Chicago.



**2019**

BPI publishes “When Chicago’s Ready for Reform, Here’s What It Could Do,” calling on Chicago’s new Mayor to strengthen the oversight powers of Chicago’s inspectors general.



**2019**

BPI and CHA agree to a court-approved settlement of the 53-year-old *Gautreaux* case, obligating the Chicago Housing Authority to meet all commitments and end the case by July 31, 2024.



# Transforming Chicago's Public Housing

Chicago has long been one of the country's most racially segregated cities. After World War II, when a boom in public housing was part of the nation's response to the post-war housing shortage, how did Chicago handle all of its new public housing? While building some 18,000 high-rise public housing apartments in the 1950s and 1960s, it put virtually every single one of those new buildings in neighborhoods that were entirely African-American, or nearly so.

## **BPI and *Gautreaux***

In 1970, when Alex Polikoff took over as Executive Director of BPI, he brought with him the *Gautreaux* case he had filed in 1966 to contest the legality of that racially segregated housing in Chicago—the first major public housing desegregation case in the country. In the 49 years since then, BPI lawyers have shepherded the *Gautreaux* case through a legal saga that has indelibly changed Chicago for the better. “The *Gautreaux* case has, in my view, made the City a better and fairer place for all of its citizens to reside in, and has been a model elsewhere in this country as well,” said U.S. District Court Judge Marvin Aspen in 2019.

Three main “streams” of opportunity emerged from the landmark *Gautreaux* decision:

One was a scattered site program—situating the majority of new low-rise affordable units in smaller buildings in neighborhoods with less than 30 percent African-American population. A second was mixed-income developments—replacing demolished high-rises



**Taylor Street Apartments and Little Italy Branch Library**





**“You want to know how my life would have been different if I had not got that letter? If I would have stayed in the city?”**

**Well, the best thing I’ve ever done in life—other than having my children—was move out here to the northwest suburbs. We had a better opportunity out here. This is our home.”**

**Gloria Washington  
Gautreaux Housing Mobility Program**

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with mixed-income communities that included public housing alongside affordable and market-rate housing. The third was housing “mobility”—assisting families to access private housing of their choice in non-segregated neighborhoods using rent subsidies provided by the housing authority.

### **The Scattered Site Program**

Historically, this stream of relief was least successful. Though some 2,000 units were eventually built, this was a small number compared to the tens of thousands of segregated units the program was designed to remedy. Changing demography, vanishing vacant land, escalating construction costs, and the drying-up of federal funding all combined to end this program. Today, however, with new housing development tools available to the housing authority, scattered sites are again a part of the remedy.

### **Mixed-Income Housing**

The mixed-income program ranks much higher on the success scale. Thousands of mixed-income homes and apartments in nearly a dozen communities—the

biggest such public housing “transformation” effort in the country—have already been completed and, by and large, are working well. New mixed-income communities have brought additional public and private investment, including libraries, parks, retail, restaurants and more, to long-neglected neighborhoods. It’s taken some 20 years to reach this point and will take more to finish, but the housing authority is obligated to get the job done under the *Gautreaux* Settlement Agreement.

### **Housing Mobility**

Housing mobility, the third stream of opportunity, was created by *Gautreaux*. From 1976 to 1998, the *Gautreaux* Assisted Housing Program enabled some 7,000 public housing families to use rent subsidy vouchers to move into private housing, mostly in suburban Cook County neighborhoods with good schools. Studies of moving families’ experiences disclosed stunningly positive outcomes—in employment and earnings, schooling, and psychological well-being among others. So much so that mobility became a subject of national interest. HUD mounted a five-city demonstration. In cities around the country *Gautreaux*-type lawsuits resulted in mobility remedies. Last year Congress authorized some \$25 million for a new mobility demonstration.

Enabling families to exit segregated, disadvantaged neighborhoods with federal housing choice vouchers has become a major item on the country's domestic agenda.

### **What's Next for BPI's Public Housing Work?**

In January 2019 U.S. District Court Judge Marvin Aspen approved a Settlement Agreement between BPI lawyers—representing public housing residents and applicants—and the Chicago Housing Authority. This historic decision established a path to ending the *Gautreaux* public housing desegregation lawsuit. The Settlement specifies a series of CHA commitments that will end the case on July 31, 2024. These include:

- Complete all planned development at CHA mixed-income sites.
- Adhere to guidelines that assure that its non-mixed-income family housing will be available throughout Chicago, rather than concentrated in predominantly African-American communities.
- Abide by Court-approved terms concerning CHA's new online, site-based wait list system.
- Engage in discussions with BPI *Gautreaux* lawyers in order to improve CHA's Housing Choice Voucher Mobility Program.
- Launch early learning programs patterned on BPI's Altgeld–Riverdale Early Learning Initiative in four additional family public housing developments.

Specific examples of work CHA has agreed to complete under terms of the Settlement include:

### **Completing CHA Mixed-Income Sites**

CHA redevelopment efforts are currently underway at 13 separate mixed-income sites. Each redevelopment plan is different and in a different stage of completion:



**“Moving into Oakwood Shores was important to me. It was conducive for play, it was conducive for exploration. I had internships, work service opportunities, things I was doing during school. Being in these programs at such a young age really pushed me, molded me into the young professional that I am now.**

**Chance Mitchell  
Oakwood Shores**

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**Henry Horner** The Horner complex on the Near West Side has been converted from a development of only public housing to a mixed-income rental and homeownership community now called Westhaven Park. Under the Settlement, CHA must replace public housing apartments that were converted to affordable and market-rate housing with new public housing units located in North Side neighborhoods.

**Lathrop** A historic rehabilitation of the Lathrop Homes development has recently been completed, resulting in some 150 attractive new CHA family apartments side by side for the first time with affordable and market-rate housing. Eventually 250 more public housing units will occupy the Lathrop site, and CHA will add 500 new family units in multiple North Side neighborhoods.

**Cabrini** With hundreds of CHA units already provided on the Cabrini site and in the surrounding community, developers of the three new Cabrini sites are now finalizing their proposed plans. Eventually 1,800 CHA family units will be available in one of Chicago's more desirable neighborhoods.

### **Increasing CHA Housing in Non-Segregated Neighborhoods**

While providing much new mixed-income housing is a central element of the *Gautreaux* Settlement, the overarching goal is to give public-housing-eligible families the opportunity to live in non-segregated communities. Toward this end, CHA has agreed that until at least half of its entire family housing portfolio (not including redevelopment sites) is in non-segregated neighborhoods, it will focus all of its future family unit development and acquisition activity in such areas.

**With the end of the historic *Gautreaux* desegregation case now in sight, BPI will continue its strong advocacy for public-housing-eligible families and individuals over the coming years as we look to completion of all of the terms of our historic Settlement Agreement with CHA by 2024.**

# Early Learning and Improving Life Outcomes for Children

BPI launched the Altgeld-Riverdale Early Learning Initiative in 2012 as a community-driven effort to build a comprehensive and coordinated early childhood system that supports children from pre-birth to age eight in the Altgeld-Riverdale community on Chicago's Far Southeast Side.

The engine of this program is the Altgeld-Riverdale Early Learning Coalition, a network of over two dozen residents, community organizations, social service providers, early learning centers and on-site elementary schools, as well as key government agencies such as the Chicago Housing Authority, Chicago Police Department, and the local Chicago Park District and Library. BPI is the Coalition's ongoing convener, project manager, and facilitator.

## Why Altgeld-Riverdale and Why Early Learning?

The Altgeld-Riverdale community is home to Altgeld Gardens, CHA's largest remaining development of 100 percent public housing. With a median household income of less than \$15,000 and unemployment at nearly 40 percent, its poverty rate is the highest in the city. Residents lack a full-service grocery store and have sparse public transit options—the community is served by just one CTA bus line, 49 stops from the nearest Red Line train.

Children and youth comprise a large percentage of the population. The median age of residents is a little over 20 (versus almost 34 for the entire city). Moreover, kids under age eight account for a quarter of the population, and some three-quarters live in households with incomes below the poverty line.



**Doula Nicole Spencer and friend.**

A growing body of research documents how critical the early years are to the long-term well-being of kids. With 80 percent of all brain growth happening in the first three years, and 90 percent by age five, disparities can appear early on and last a lifetime. That's why it's so important to set kids up for success early, and why focusing on early learning in Altgeld-Riverdale offers the promise of important and enduring benefits for young children and their families.



**“I was a young teenage mom and my husband worked all the time. We lived with his family [in Altgeld], and I was definitely nervous about how I would bring a new baby into a home that wasn’t even mine. The program gave me somewhere I could go. Miss Nicole was my doula. She’s just wonderful. It was like if I had my mother by me. I learned a lot from her and from the other mothers in the program. It really had a big impact.”**

**Vianka Gomez  
Doula/Home Visiting Program**

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### **The Early Learning Coalition: Making It Happen**

With no mechanism in place for community-wide collaboration on early childhood issues, BPI formed the Coalition as a forum where partners could connect, learn from experts, and make decisions together—no easy feat given the initial skepticism and lack of trust that existed. The Coalition began by establishing priorities and partnering with early learning experts to develop a continuum of free, evidenced-based programming serving children pre-birth to age eight, all with a goal of having every child on track to succeed by third grade—cognitively, physically, socially, and emotionally. Through faithfully attended monthly meetings, Coalition members have developed a sense of shared ownership and mutual respect and now work together to tackle community-identified problems.

### **Seven Years Later: Where Do We Stand?**

For seven years, the Coalition has remained a critical forum for collaboration, problem solving, and information sharing, while providing a robust array of programs across the age continuum. Today, our early learning programming includes:

- A **doula/home visiting program** serving young moms and their children from pre-birth through age three.
- An **early language development program** for teachers and parents of children zero to two.
- A **Pre-K enrollment program** focused on enrolling three- and four-year-olds in high-quality Pre-K programs.
- A **Pre-K to Kindergarten transitions program** focused on ensuring kids are prepared for Kindergarten and experience a smooth transition at this important developmental turning point in their lives.
- An **after-school science enrichment program** offering hands-on STEM programming for six- to eight-year-olds.

### **What's Next in Altgeld-Riverdale?**

Since the start of BPI's early learning work here, teachers, parents, and community partners have continually expressed their concerns regarding children's exposure to stress and trauma in the community. Teachers in particular lament time and again how the effects of trauma, often expressed through disruptive classroom behavior, interfere with day-to-day teaching. Teachers struggle, and they need help.

To address this challenge, BPI and the Altgeld-Riverdale Early Learning Coalition, in partnership with the Juvenile Protective Association (JPA), launched a pilot program to provide monthly trauma support services in all six Pre-K and Kindergarten programs during the spring of 2018. Teacher feedback regarding the pilot was positive and enthusiastic. One overarching recommendation, however, did emerge: Do more.

In response, we are introducing a new and more intensive trauma support program in the 2019-2020 school year. Our new three-year trauma support program will offer a multi-pronged intervention focused on key connections in a child's life: teacher-child, parent-child, and parent-teacher. It will include teacher consultation and student lessons, along with clinician-led parent workshops, an opportunity for individual and small group therapy, and a JPA-led evaluation.

This high-dosage trauma program offers an important new opportunity to inject critical support into schools and child care centers in a community where the harmful effects of trauma exposure are felt every day.

**BPI intended the Altgeld-Riverdale Early Learning Initiative to inspire similar efforts in other high-needs communities. As part of the recent *Gautreaux Settlement Agreement*, CHA has agreed to expand the Altgeld-Riverdale model to as many as four additional CHA developments over the next several years—with the first new site already in the early planning stage. This expansion means many more Chicago children will have this special community-powered opportunity to grow and learn in their earliest years—setting the stage for future life success.**

**“BPI’s projects show the scope of the group’s concern for the common good. They also show how lucky Chicago is to have such public interest law pioneers.”** 1980

*Editorial, Chicago Sun-Times*

# Police Accountability and Public Safety

In November 2015, the release of the video of Laquan McDonald's killing by a Chicago police officer forced all Chicagoans to face terrible truths ignored for too long: Frequently, victims are black and brown or people suffering from mental illness. Some officers lie to protect their colleagues. The systems set up to identify and address police misconduct often fail to identify it, investigate it properly, or punish wrongdoers. The costs are staggering: lives lost unnecessarily, hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars spent settling police misconduct lawsuits, widespread distrust of police officers, and a broad perception, especially among people of color, that many police officers devalue their dignity and humanity.

## What's Needed: A Strong Role for the Community

In the wake of massive public protest, Mayor Rahm Emanuel created a Police Accountability Task Force in 2016. BPI served on one of the working groups that recommended fundamental changes to the entire police oversight system.

The Task Force concluded that one of the central challenges to improving public safety is building trust and respect between police officers and the people they serve and protect. As a result, a key recommendation was creation of a community board that would give Chicago residents a powerful role in the police oversight system.

In early 2016, a group of well-established community-based organizations formed the Grassroots Alliance for Police Accountability (GAPA) in order to lead a community engagement process and develop recommendations for the civilian oversight entity.



**Autry Phillips, of Target Area Development Corporation, and BPI's Adam Gross discuss GAPA's proposed Chicago ordinance on *Chicago Tonight*.**

BPI has provided support and worked side by side with GAPA from its first days.

GAPA engaged thousands of Chicago residents in neighborhoods across the city to develop its set of recommendations. To ensure that its views were rooted in a deep knowledge of current conditions and a solid understanding of national best practices, BPI led participants





**“I don't give up hope. Every day we have police officers in Chicago who interact in healthy and transformative ways with the communities that they serve. Those are the police officers that we look forward to having in our city in the future.”**

**Mecole Jordan  
Grassroots Alliance For Police  
Accountability (GAPA)**

through a months-long analysis of Chicago’s existing police oversight system and exploration of models in other cities. We worked closely with experts around the country and connected them to GAPA. Then, over the course of almost a year, BPI helped lead a process in which GAPA participants developed a bold new plan to dramatically improve policing and police accountability in Chicago.

### **The GAPA Ordinance**

The hard work paid off. GAPA participants developed and BPI drafted an ordinance that fundamentally reimagines the relationship between the Chicago Police Department (CPD) and the communities it serves. It creates new partnerships to bring police officers and residents together to build mutual trust and increase safety at the neighborhood level, strengthen the police accountability system, and give civilians a powerful new role in ensuring that police policy reflects both community values and national best practices.

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### **New Citywide Commission and Local Councils**

Now pending before the Chicago City Council, the Ordinance creates both a citywide community oversight board and neighborhood-level bodies to work on public safety initiatives within each police district.

The citywide board will focus on systemic reform. As GAPA, the Police Accountability Task Force, and U.S. Department of Justice all concluded, the problem in Chicago is not that individual police officers act with ill intent or disregard of the rules. The problem lies in a system that fails to provide officers with the training and supervision they need to identify and address police misconduct, and to put in place policies that adequately protect both civilians and police officers.

GAPA’s proposed Civilian Commission will advance systemic reform in a number of ways. The Commission will have a formal role in selecting key leaders, including the Police Superintendent. It will develop strategic goals and priorities for the Police Department and help to set policy. This will assure that CPD policies and priorities are rooted in best practices and grounded in the needs and values of the community. Not only will this help build trust in the Police Department, but it will also improve police practices and public safety outcomes.

The Ordinance also creates three-member local councils in each of the city’s 22 police districts. Members of each District Council will be elected by community residents in regular city elections. These local councils will bring CPD district leadership and community members together to develop plans that make each neighborhood safer.

### **Where Does the Ordinance Stand?**

BPI and GAPA leaders have held nearly 100 meetings with aldermen, the Mayor's Office, and other key stakeholders to strengthen the Ordinance and build support. A majority of aldermen have now signed on as co-sponsors. Mayor Lori Lightfoot has regularly supported creation of a community oversight board as Chair of the Police Accountability Task Force, as a mayoral candidate, and now as Mayor. We anticipate the Ordinance will become law this Fall.

### **The Challenge Ahead: What's Next?**

Once the Ordinance is passed, BPI will work to turn this bold community vision into a reality. We'll work with GAPA groups to get the Commission and District Councils up and running. We'll help spread the word about the District Councils and the Commission, build interest in serving on the District Councils, and provide trainings for prospective candidates. BPI will also work closely with CPD to develop plans for effective collaboration between the District Councils and the Department, ensuring that the District Councils play an active role in the Department's new community policing strategy.

**BPI undertook this process convinced that Chicago has an historic opportunity to institute fundamental and enduring public safety reforms. Our conviction has only deepened as we have worked with our fellow citizens across the city to develop this vision and a plan to realize it. The moment is now at hand.**

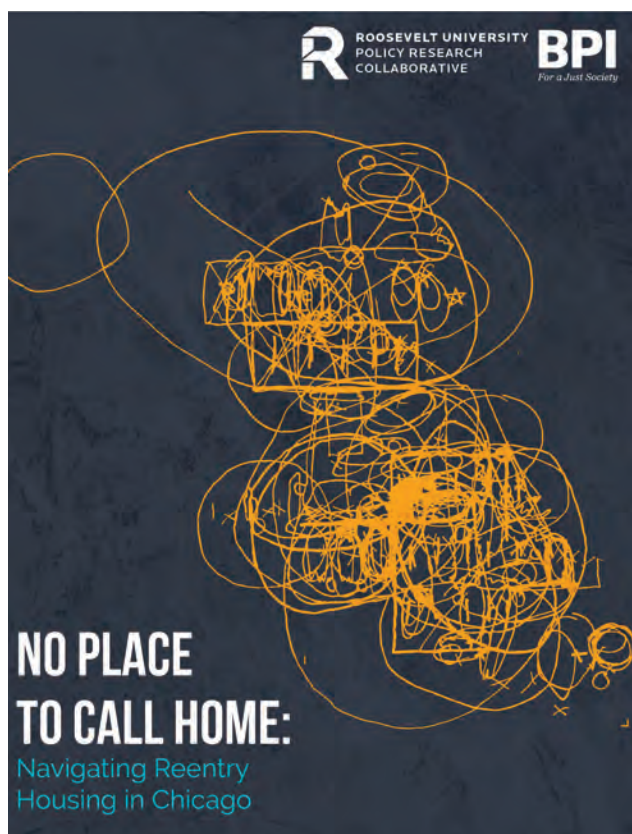
**“Sure it’s corny, but  
for 25 years, a small  
band of idealists  
has fought for just one  
thing: Justice.”** 1994

Jeff Lyon

*Chicago Tribune*

# Reforming Illinois' Justice System

In our efforts to reform Illinois' justice system, BPI is confronting the challenge that so many justice-involved individuals face upon release—finding safe and affordable housing. A growing body of evidence suggests that this is a primary factor in recidivism and reincarceration.



## **“No Place to Call Home”**

Our work began with research in partnership with Roosevelt University's Policy Research Collaborative (PRC). This collaboration led to a compelling policy report from a unique perspective, “No Place to Call Home: Navigating Reentry Housing in Chicago.” Our research team recruited some 80 returning citizens to participate in a voluntary study on the many barriers they've encountered in securing housing, and we identified a number of policy approaches that address these challenges.

Fully three-quarters of participants reported being rejected by a landlord, most often as a consequence of a background check. One respondent summarized his experience with housing discrimination this way: “I thought I had a good chance

to get [an apartment] in the Bronzeville community, and I was denied. It wasn't because I didn't have a job—I actually had a cosigner willing to back me, who was my employer. And I still wasn't able to get my own apartment. The only logical explanation was because I am a returning citizen. And that's kind of sad because I have a decent job, and I thought I had paid my debt to society. But in the four instances where I applied for apartments I wanted, I was denied.” (Joe, age 38)

As an outgrowth of our study, BPI joined the Just Housing Coalition, a Chicago collaboration dedicated to addressing housing discrimination against those with criminal records. We are pleased to report that in April 2019 Cook County amended its Human Rights Ordinance to include a series of provisions that offer increased protections for people with criminal backgrounds in their search for housing.



**“To have a place to go to and call home is not only the desire of every adult human being, but the desire of those who are formerly incarcerated. How can an individual create an existence without a place to call home? Overcoming barriers of access to housing is essential to overcoming the stigma of having been formerly incarcerated, and more importantly, is essential to re-acclimating to society”**

**Nasir Blackwell  
Inner-City Muslim Action  
Network (IMAN)**

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need to effectively transition into their new homes.”

The immediate goal of our pilot is to provide a path for justice-involved individuals to gain housing, employment, and financial independence, and after three years to be able to personally assume their lease and return the housing voucher to the Drug Court to serve new graduates.

HACC Executive Director Rich Monocchio observes, “This innovative pilot involving the Cook County Housing Authority, TASC, the Circuit Court, and BPI is going to be a trailblazer in demonstrating how the housing and justice systems can work together to ensure the formerly incarcerated can succeed.”

**BPI’s goal is to show not only how crucial housing is for justice-involved people, but also how innovative partnerships can improve lives and reduce recidivism and, therefore, merit replication on a larger scale throughout Illinois.**

## **Reentry Housing and the Cook County Drug Court**

Further exploration of reentry housing issues led BPI to launch a significant new project—a pilot program involving a unique partnership between the Cook County Drug Treatment Court and the Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC) to provide 25 housing vouchers to men and women graduating from Drug Court. Judge Charles Burns notes, “This partnership will ensure those in recovery have access to stable and affordable housing—a crucial piece to transition from a recurring criminal life to that of a successful and admired member of our community.”

In the program now underway, each of 25 individuals who graduates from Drug Court supervision receives a Cook County housing voucher. HACC counselors help those enrolled find an apartment and receive landlord approval. Once housing is arranged and for up to one full year, program participants will receive critical individual case management counseling services provided by Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC).

TASC Director of Operations Alicia Osborne reports: “It is highly stressful for anyone to navigate the housing search and settle into a new community. It is particularly difficult for those who are leaving the justice system and are in recovery. Extended case management will ensure that program participants have the support they

# Helping Families Move Out of Poverty

A growing body of research demonstrates that living in neighborhoods that are safe, healthy, and connected to high-quality services, schools, and jobs can yield lifelong benefits for children. That's why, after years of study and planning, BPI is about to launch an entirely new approach to helping families with children move from neighborhoods of deep poverty to thriving neighborhoods with good schools, increased job opportunities, and an array of community resources.

## **BPI'S Two Generation Housing Mobility Demonstration**

Designed to help very-low-income families with children move to and stay in neighborhoods of opportunity, we call our new initiative "The Two-Generation Housing Mobility Demonstration." It is "two-generation" because both children and their parents receive direct services and individual supports. It is a "demonstration" because a rigorous research study will track the life outcomes of both children and adults over a five-year period.

Families who participate in the Two-Generation Demonstration will come from high-poverty neighborhoods in Chicago and suburban Cook County. Each family will receive an "opportunity" housing voucher enabling them to move to strong and thriving communities. Compared to previous mobility programs, the critical difference in our Two-Generation program is that for the first time, families with children moving to new neighborhoods will receive an array of services to help them succeed in their new settings. Each family member will receive supportive services not previously offered in either the quantity or depth of our Two-Generation Demonstration. These services are vitally important because previous experience across the country shows that many families find adjusting to a vastly different neighborhood very challenging and, without adequate support, often return to their old communities as a result.

## **Where We Are Now**

BPI has secured the necessary funding to launch our Demonstration. It will become an official Creating Moves to Opportunity site. Our partners in this effort include the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) and Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC). Housing Choice Partners will provide housing search assistance and landlord recruitment services. Children's Home & Aid will provide case management support services to all family members for one year following their move. MDRC and the Loyola University of Chicago Center for Urban Research and Learning will design and implement a randomized controlled trial research protocol to evaluate the program's impact.

BPI and our partners are especially grateful for the generous support provided by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Chicago Community Trust, Ford Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and U. S. Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

**What will the impact be? If we're successful, BPI's Two-Generation Residential Mobility Demonstration will enable hundreds of Chicago-area families who choose to do so the chance to move to neighborhoods of significantly greater opportunity for the entire family—ones with good schools, better employment prospects, and safe streets. At the same time, it is our hope that this work will catalyze important changes in the national housing voucher program that will extend similar opportunities to thousands more low-income families across the country.**



# Government Reform and Public Corruption

Inspectors general are uniquely positioned to shine a light on public corruption, fraud, and inefficiency. However, the ability of IGs—essentially the “internal watchdogs” of government at all levels—to effectively fulfill the duties of their offices is limited by the degree to which they can operate independently and with appropriate power.

## Assessing Illinois IGs

In 2011, BPI published “Inspectors General and Government Corruption,” a comprehensive report on this too-often overlooked aspect of government reform. We assessed five IG offices in Illinois and offered a set of recommendations designed to improve the function of IGs at every level of government, while increasing recognition of the important role they play in fighting corruption.

## What Can Chicago Do to Combat Public Corruption?

Addressing the persisting corruption that continues to plague Chicago requires tenacity. That’s why this year—eight years after our initial IG report—we once again issued a challenge to political leadership to take action. In “When Chicago’s Ready For Reform, Here’s What It Could Do: An Open Letter to Our New Mayor,” BPI called on our Mayor to restore integrity in City government by strengthening the system of inspectors general in Chicago.



**BPI Executive Director Hoy McConnell calls on Mayor Lightfoot to expand the powers of inspectors general at a press conference on April 11, 2019. Looking on are BPI Board Vice President Jonathan Kaden and former Chicago Inspector General David Hoffman.**

**WHEN CHICAGO'S  
READY FOR REFORM,  
HERE'S WHAT IT  
COULD DO**

*An Open Letter  
to the New Mayor  
of Chicago*

**BPI 50  
YEARS**  
For a Just Society



To do so, BPI offered a three-pronged approach:

**Independence** IG offices need to have the budget, reporting, and managerial independence necessary to work effectively. They must have sufficient protections to insulate themselves from political retribution as they undertake sensitive investigations.

**Powers and Jurisdiction** Each of the City’s inspectors general should have the power to investigate all complaints, even anonymous ones, and should have full subpoena powers. They should also have the responsibility to regularly monitor large contracts and to do background integrity reviews on senior hires, contractors, and vendors.

**Collaboration** A protocol should be established that enables the six Chicago inspectors general to work together collaboratively and more effectively.

**We will continue our battle to create and perpetuate a culture of integrity in the halls of power. BPI will strive to reach the point when we can say: Chicago is not only ready for reform, but is finally serious about achieving it.**

**“If these crucial reforms are to be made, our new Mayor will play a pivotal role in making them happen.”**

Hoy McConnell, April 11, 2019

# Celebrating 20 Years of the Polikoff-Gautreaux Fellowship

Created in 1999 to honor the late Dorothy Gautreaux, civil rights activist and a named plaintiff in the *Gautreaux* litigation, and BPI's Alex Polikoff, lead attorney in this landmark case, our two-year fellowship now draws scores of applicants from across the country. The fellowship provides talented young law and policy school graduates with the opportunity to gain significant experience in public interest advocacy across BPI's multiple program areas. BPI will welcome our 24th Polikoff-Gautreaux Fellow this fall.



**2019**  
**Ashton Hoselton**  
JD Georgetown  
University Law Center  
*Polikoff-Gautreaux  
Fellow, BPI*



**2018**  
**Isabel (Izzy) Breit**  
JD University of  
Denver College of Law  
*Polikoff-Gautreaux  
Fellow, BPI*



**2018**  
**Marsheda Ewulomi**  
JD Northwestern  
University School  
of Law  
*Polikoff-Gautreaux  
Fellow, BPI*



**2017**  
**Madeleine Hamlin**  
MA Public  
Administration,  
MA Geography,  
Syracuse University  
*PhD Student,  
Syracuse University*



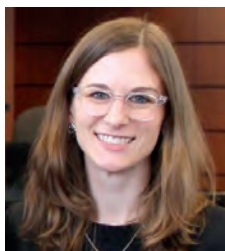
**2016**  
**Mara Easterbrook  
Klebaner**  
JD University of  
Chicago Law School  
*Judicial Law Clerk,  
U.S. District Court for  
the Northern District  
of Illinois*



**2015**  
**Emily Powers**  
JD Northwestern  
University School  
of Law  
*Program Manager,  
Justice Reform, BPI*



**2015**  
**S. Mayumi Grigsby**  
JD Northeastern  
University School  
of Law  
*Chief of Policy and  
Advocacy, Office  
of the City Clerk,  
City of Chicago*



**2014**  
**Emily Brown**  
JD University of  
Michigan Law School  
*Attorney, Hughes  
Socol Piers Resnick  
& Dym Ltd*



**2013**  
**Justin Tresnowski**  
JD Harvard Law  
School  
*Assistant Corporation  
Counsel,  
City of Chicago*



**2012**  
**Karen Bemis**  
JD University of  
Georgia Law School  
*Director, Programs,  
Points of Light,  
Atlanta*



**2011**  
**Emily Blumberg**  
 JD Harvard Law School  
*Attorney, Klein Hornig LLP*



**2010**  
**Taylor Healy**  
 JD Villanova University School of Law  
*Community Lawyering Project Supervisor, Bread for the City*



**2010**  
**Aya Barnea**  
 JD DePaul University College of Law  
*Law Clerk, Illinois Appellate Court*



**2009**  
**Anoa Changa**  
 JD West Virginia University College of Law  
*Director Digital Strategy and Storytelling, New Georgia Project*



**2008**  
**Kate Pomper Costello**  
 JD University of Michigan Law School  
*Lawyer, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*



**2007**  
**Katie Hill**  
 JD University of Chicago Law School  
*Partner, Salvatore Prescott & Porter, PLLC*



**2006**  
**Nadia Wishne Underhill**  
 MPA Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University  
*VP Housing & Real Estate, Thresholds*



**2005**  
**Rosanne Aviles**  
 JD Columbia University School of Law  
*Trial Attorney, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development*



**2004**  
**Kelli Harsch**  
 JD Yale Law School  
*Attorney, Applegate & Thorne-Thomsen*



**2003**  
**Jessica L. Webster**  
 JD Mitchell Hamline School of Law  
*Attorney, Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid*



**2002**  
**Henry J. Ford, Jr.**  
 JD/MPP Syracuse University  
*Senior Labor & Employment Attorney, City of Philadelphia*



**2001**  
**Beth Valukas**  
 JD Northwestern University School of Law  
*Executive Director, Search, Inc.*



**2000**  
**Nicholas J. Brunick**  
 JD/MPP University of Texas  
*Partner, Applegate & Thorne-Thomsen*



**1999**  
**Jennifer Salvatore**  
 JD University of Michigan Law School  
*Founding Partner, Salvatore Prescott & Porter*

**“BPI has used the law to draw the best of the community to civic obligation and to utilize the content of the law to balance the scales in our society.”** 2001

Henry Cisneros

Former U.S. Secretary of Housing  
and Urban Development

# Contributors

Throughout the past five decades, the generous commitment to BPI's mission of countless individuals and organizations has made our every effort to create a just society possible. BPI is deeply grateful for the generous support of the contributors recognized here and their partnership in our work today.

This listing reflects contributions and pledges received from September 1, 2018 through August 31, 2019.

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BPI has made every effort to make this list accurate and inclusive. If you discover an error or omission, please accept our apologies. We would appreciate your advising us so that we may correct our records. **Thank you.**

**“The challenge is recognizing that even when we do uncomfortable things, even when it feels hard, there is something on the other side that is absolutely transformative. And it is that spirit of transformation that BPI represents.”**<sup>2014</sup>

Bryan Stevenson  
Executive Director  
Equal Justice Initiative



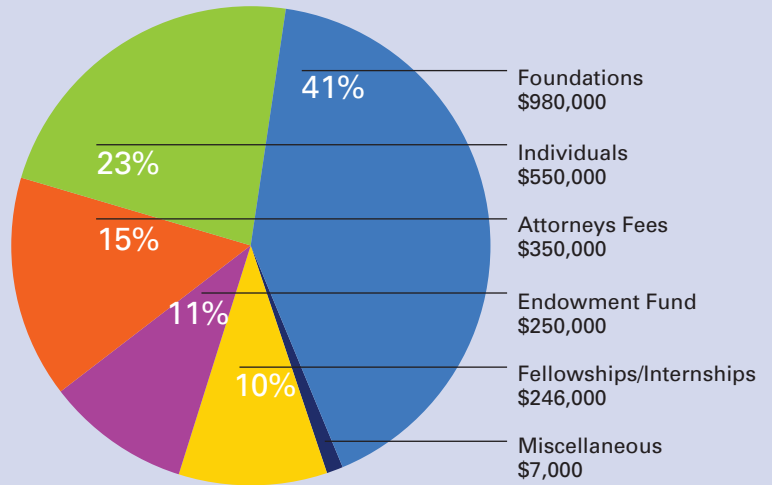
# Financials

January 1 – December 31, 2019 (estimated)  
Based on 8/31/19 year-to-date actual

## Sources of Funds

Total Sources — \$2,383,000

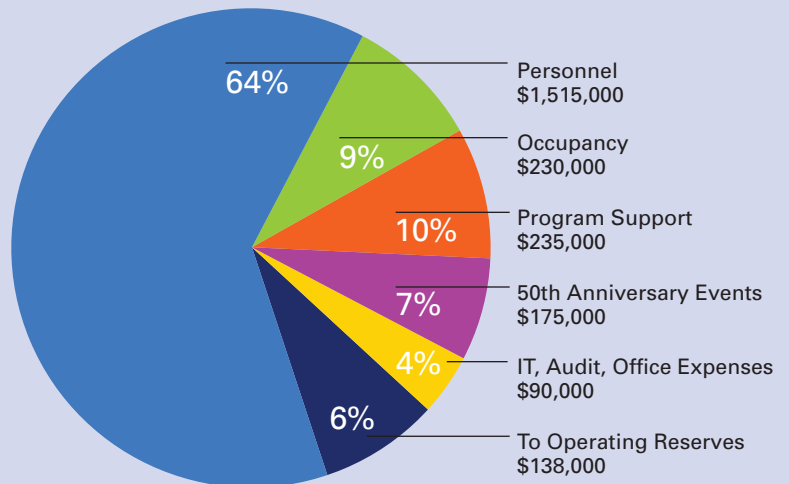
Foundation grants and individual support are the sources of nearly two-thirds of BPI's projected 2019 funds.



## Uses of Funds

Total Uses — \$2,383,000

Personnel and program support expenses account for about three-quarters of BPI's estimated 2019 uses of funds.



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**Emily Powers**  
Program Manager, Justice Reform, Staff Counsel

**Susannah Levine**  
Director, Education and Early Learning

**Betsy Lassar**  
Policy Analyst

**Hoy McConnell**  
Executive Director



**Alexander Polikoff**  
Co-Director, Public Housing and Mobility  
Senior Staff Counsel

**Ellen Elias**  
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**Ashton Hoselton**  
Polikoff-Gautreaux Fellow  
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Receptionist

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**Marissa Manos**  
Administrative Director

**Marsheda Ewulomi**  
Polikoff-Gautreaux Fellow  
Staff Counsel



**Hillary Chutter-Ames**  
Skadden Fellow  
Staff Counsel

**Julie Elena Brown**  
Co-Director, Public Housing and Mobility  
Senior Staff Counsel

**Isabel Breit**  
Polikoff-Gautreaux Fellow  
Staff Counsel



**Em Hall**  
Communications Director

**Paula Kruger**  
Technology Coordinator  
Administrative Assistant

**Adam Gross**  
Director, Justice Reform and Police Accountability  
Staff Counsel

**Artishia Hunter**  
Senior Education Associate

**“What makes BPI special? Their defiance, their bigheartedness, their empathy, their fearlessness. All things I cherish in our country, right here, in one organization, among this small group of lawyers and fierce advocates.”** 2018

Alex Kotlowitz

Journalist and author

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1969–1972

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1982–1986

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1990–1995

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## 50th Anniversary Program Chairs

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BPI Directors who served on our 50th Anniversary committees are indicated by an asterisk after their name.

**“ BPI’s excellence, effectiveness, independence, their deep humanity, and dogged persistence have all helped the organization lead the way across a whole array of issues that are important to the people of Chicago. Let’s look forward to a full century of BPI’s leadership.”**<sup>2019</sup>

Julia Stasch

President

John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

**“Over the last 50 years, BPI has been about bringing people together, being fierce advocates for what is right, and never resting. Our north stars, just like BPI’s, must be equity and inclusion so that every opportunity is not defined by race, ethnicity, country of origin, religion, or who you love. This is our time to stand together and show the world that we know how to address and solve the challenges before us.”**

Mayor Lori Lightfoot, Keynote Address  
BPI 50th Anniversary Celebration Dinner  
May 2019

## **About BPI**

BPI is a public interest law and policy center that for 50 years has worked to create a just society. Our work today focuses on addressing the challenges of urban poverty and racial inequity, increasing housing and educational opportunity, building vital communities, strengthening early childhood learning, reforming our criminal justice system, and improving governmental integrity and efficiency.

Considered one of Chicago's most tenacious and versatile advocates for the public interest, BPI lawyers and policy specialists engage in legal and policy research, advocacy, litigation, organizing, and collaboration with community, nonprofit, government, academic, and business organizations to accomplish our mission.

Business and  
Professional People for  
the Public Interest

25 East Washington Street  
Suite 1515  
Chicago, Illinois 60602  
312.641.5570  
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