



**CONVERGENCE**  
Center for Policy Resolution

# 2016 YEAR IN REVIEW

*In 2016, we had a breakthrough year at Convergence - bringing new levels of collaborative problem solving to a wide range of critical national issues. Convergence boldly tackled seemingly intractable problems, building new ways of looking at long-standing challenges and bringing leaders and organizations with widely different worldviews and agendas together to identify creative pathways forward.*

*Convergence projects start with intensive exploration of an issue – understanding the challenges, listening to the stakeholders, and creating an inviting framework that opens up possibilities for discussion and action for those with differing views. Throughout 2016 our project teams met with experts, explored options, and convened diverse stakeholders, working to leverage their resources, talent, and influence for collective social impact. As we approach 2017, we are excited to be generating new ideas, alliances, and policy recommendations to strengthen our nation.*

## OUR GROWTH



Our budget grew to \$3.5 million in 2016, an increase of over 30% from 2015.

We launched three projects:

- Building a Better Federal Budget Process
- Working Up: A Dialogue for Action to Increase Economic Mobility
- Successful Reintegration for Formerly Incarcerated Citizens

160 people and organizations provided financial support for our work.

We involved 600 people in a Convergence project or initiative this year.

## WORKING UP: A DIALOGUE FOR ACTION TO INCREASE ECONOMIC MOBILITY



The project launched its dialogue phase this year and is working to identify ways to promote economic opportunity, especially for low-income Americans. We

convened a diverse group of over 30 stakeholders from across the country, including: business associations and representatives from major corporations and unions, workforce policy experts, community college leaders, worker advocates, faith leaders, and community practitioners who work closely with low-income Americans. Over the next several months, the group will meet with Americans who face barriers to opportunity and will explore new ideas and approaches to workforce development, quality job creation, and financial security for workers, as they develop recommendations to address this significant economic challenge.

## BUILDING A BETTER FEDERAL BUDGET PROCESS

In 2016, the project team met with over 100 people – budget experts and representatives of constituencies that have a stake in the budget process – to understand the complicated political and fiscal challenges around budget process reform. Following these conversations, we convened 30 individuals, with differing political and programmatic perspectives, who have agreed to work together over several months to come up with consensus recommendations that address the dysfunction and cost of the federal budget process.



## EDUCATION REIMAGINED

Education Reimagined quickly became a respected national voice in promoting learner-centered education on behalf of its stakeholders since its launch as an initiative of Convergence just over a year ago. Their leaders travelled the country—in-person and online—working to grow and engage a community of students, practitioners, school leaders, policy makers, business and union leaders, and community members. This year, the initiative:

Organized nine convenings among disparate education leaders with the goal of accelerating the growth of learner-centered education.

Presented their vision for the future of education at 27 national and regional educational conferences and trainings.

Created Pioneering, an e-magazine that is building the learner-centered community and highlighting innovative learning environments around the country.

Launched Pioneer Lab—a community of practitioners from diverse educational settings who are collaborating to advance the learner-centered education movement.

## LONG-TERM CARE FINANCING COLLABORATIVE

The Collaborative issued its final report this year at a press conference attended by 110 people, helping to generate the first Congressional hearing on this issue in many years and over 50 articles published in media outlets across the country. Its recommendations - a series of public and private efforts that address the urgent, unmet need for financing supports and services among elderly and disabled Americans - have the potential to create a breakthrough on an issue that has stymied policymakers for over 30 years.



Held our first ever press conference highlighting recommendations for long-term care financing.



## PROJECT ON NUTRITION AND WELLNESS

Because of the relationships built among the food industry and consumer and public health groups, the Project introduced two important tools this year that are designed to help grocery and convenience stores encourage healthier eating, while taking advantage of increased consumer demand for these foods. The Grocery Retail Scorecard and the ReFresh Initiative of the National Association of Convenience Stores include strategies for marketing, displaying, and sampling healthier foods and beverages in stores nationwide.

## NATIONAL FUNDERS

Annie E. Casey Foundation  
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation  
Chan Zuckerberg Initiative  
Einhorn Family Charitable Trust  
Ford Foundation  
Grable Foundation  
JPB Foundation  
National Association of Convenience Stores  
Nellie Mae Education Foundation  
Oak Foundation  
Stuart Family Foundation  
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

And many more!

## IN THE MEDIA

Chicago Tribune • Convenience Matters Podcast, NACS

CNBC • Forbes • Huffington Post

McKnight's Senior Living • PBS Next Avenue

Stanford Social Innovation Review • USA Today

US News and World Report