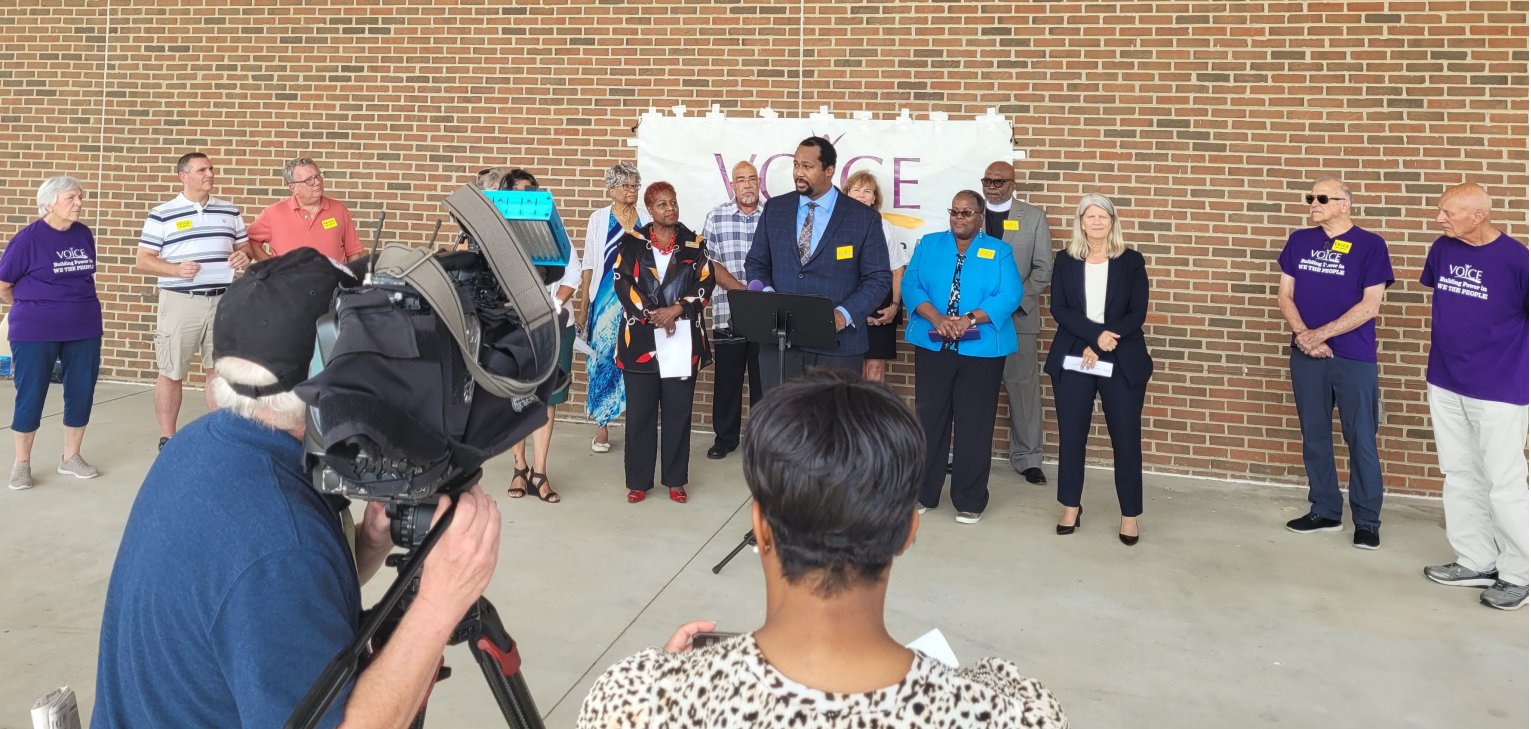




2021 VICTORIES

Taking aim at the intersection of **race, power** and **COVID** recovery in Virginia.



Stop the incarceration of those needing mental health and addiction treatment

\$12 million in state funding to create Crisis Receiving Centers (CRCs) across Virginia, so that people who are suffering from mental illness and addiction can get treatment and support instead of being thrown in jail.

VOICE is not alone in recognizing that CRCs play a critical role—this is also a major issue for law enforcement officials in Virginia, some of whom have aligned with VOICE on this issue.

First CRC in Prince William County. We are on our way to building the first center in Prince William County, one of America's most racially diverse counties. VOICE has partnered with the Prince William County Board of Supervisors, and the Board has prioritized the CRC project as a future funding priority with their federal COVID relief dollars. VOICE's organizing has played a critical role in bringing this about. Currently, there are no CRC beds in Prince William County. *VOICE is exploring this issue throughout Northern Virginia, with hopes of building many more CRCs across the Commonwealth.*

Build multi-racial democracy

Engaged 523 Muslim, Jewish, Christian, Unitarian and secular VOICE leaders and allies from 120+ faith institutions and schools in 2021 in one or more VOICE events such as VOICE Builder program, sharing the nuts and bolts of organizing, and providing a roadmap to drive systemic change in Virginia. As well as, other VOICE events including collective research learning events, political meetings with key officials and actions with a focus on specific, measurable, bold change.

Expanded in rural VA

VOICE have begun working with a new group in the rural Shenandoah Valley named Faith in Action, VOICE's first sister organization in Virginia. www.harrisonburgfaithinaction.org.

We need your help to build a more powerful VOICE in 2022.

Please make a donation today at www.voice-iaf.org.

You can also mail a check to VOICE: 4444 Arlington Blvd., Arlington, VA 22204.

Major wins for tenants and systemic affordable housing changes

VOICE organized with low-income tenants from the Serrano apartment complex in Arlington to hold accountable the management company that has allowed horrible living conditions to persist, including rampant mold and rodent infestations, rampant power outages and more.

Throughout this campaign VOICE Arlington leaders also brought to light systemic affordable housing changes that need to be made in Arlington County. VOICE's tenant and systemic victories included, but were not limited to:

- VOICE secured the first **\$2 million for improvements** at the building;
- **Two top executives from AHC, including the CEO, stepped down** after VOICE shed a spotlight on the repeated neglect at the Serrano;
- **AHC fired their own inhouse management company**, (a for profit branch of AHC). A new company was brought in.
- **Two tenants were added** to the AHC board;
- **A claims procedure was put in place** for tenants left with expenses from mold and mice damage to clothes, food lost from power outages, and more. (All claims have not been resolved.)
- **The county board paused any new funding to AHC** until Serrano problems are resolved.
- **The Arlington Housing Department announced it will inspect 100% of 1200 committed affordable units** in 6 older multi-family buildings starting in January. This is the first time the county has undergone such a project.



- **The County Board and Housing Department announced changes in the oversight language** in its affordable housing agreements to ensure that a landlord/applicant has identified the needed repairs and has a plan and funds in place to make repairs and renovations.
- **Angel Jackson, a former Serrano resident** who organized with VOICE applied to become a member of the County's Housing Commission. She will soon join the Commission.
- **New County Board Chair, Katie Cristol, outlined her housing goals for 2022:** 1. Capital Needs Assessment of aging housing stock, 2. New requirements and oversight of AHIF loan recipients, 3. Improvement of Tenant Resident Services, with a "major body of work to come."

VOICE is a multi-faith, non-partisan people's power organization of 52 religious and community institutions representing more than 200,000 households in Arlington, Fairfax, and Prince William counties and the city of Alexandria. VOICE was founded in 2008. For more on VOICE's major accomplishments that include: 1) creation of a public defender's office in Prince William County, 2) elimination of the state practice of suspending drivers' licenses for unpaid court debt, 3) major mortgage-foreclosure relief, 4) millions in affordable housing, 5) expanded pre-K for low-income children, and other issues, go to www.voice-iaf.org.