

The ACORN Members Handbook

ACORN is the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, a neighborhood-based membership organization of low and moderate income people. Founded in Arkansas in 1970, ACORN has grown to a membership of over 60,000 families in 27 states.

HISTORY

Over the past 13 years, ACORN members have addressed a broad range of issues and achieved significant results. ACORN's winning ways have:

- Established or improved home-steading programs that turn over vacant houses to low income residents (Philadelphia, Bridgeport, Ft. Worth, Phoenix, Columbia, Detroit).
- Prevented the closing of libraries, day care centers and other social services due to Reagan budget cuts (Jersey City, Memphis, Philadelphia, Tampa).
- Abolished the sales tax on medicine (AR, MO) and blocked sales tax increases (Tulsa, Colorado Springs, St. Louis, Atlanta, AR).
- Won Lifeline telephone rates (GA, LA, SC, SD, TN, TX), lifeline rates for electricity and gas (CA, Austin).
- Secured passage of a bill outlawing insurance redlining (MO) and curbed redlining by banks (St. Louis, Dallas, Memphis, Phoenix).
- Stopped community development rip-offs (AR, Denver, Grand Rapids, Durham) and passed ordinances to guarantee that community development block grant funds benefit low and moderate income people (Philadelphia; Dade County, FL; Albuquerque; Austin).
- Forced companies to clean up, move or cancel plans for toxic chemical plants and dumps (Memphis, Ft. Worth, Philadelphia, Des Moines, Minneapolis, Jacksonville, St. Paul).
- Saved lower bus fares for city residents or senior citizens (Pittsburgh, Dallas, Denver, Atlanta, Boston).
- Improved facilities and text books in low income schools (Bridgeport), stopped school closings (Huron, Des Moines), and won testing for asbestos in schools (Philadelphia, New Orleans).
- Increased payments and eligibility for federal energy assistance (FL, AR, NC, IA, AZ, TN, MA).