



colorado democracy alliance

Core Functions and Services

Functions:

- Facilitate collaboration among donors, progressive organizations and elected officials
- Assist in the definition, development and success of the Colorado progressive infrastructure
- Create and support a network of progressive donors
- Convene and participate in a progressive strategy table for short- and medium-term electoral and policy goals

Services:

- Provide continuous and comprehensive research and analysis on strategic progressive (and conservative) capacity, strength and deficiencies
- Serve as a clearinghouse for all relevant information and data critical to the development and funding of a comprehensive progressive infrastructure
- Promote and assist in the coordination of the activities of progressive organizations to reduce duplication of effort and enhance impact and efficiency
- Maintain an inventory and profile of all Colorado progressive organizations
- Work closely with funded organizations to improve performance, including fundraising, strengthen coordination and fill gaps in the infrastructure
- Formulate funding plans/recommendations for members
- Monitor the development and effectiveness of the statewide progressive infrastructure
- Act as liaison with national groups to secure external funding and promote external assistance in building the Colorado infrastructure

and deficiencies; formulate funding recommendations for members; match donor interests with progressive organizations; and monitor the success of the progressive infrastructure.

CORE FUNCTIONS AND SERVICES

Consistent with its major strategies for success, the Alliance has four core functions: facilitate collaboration among donors, progressive organizations and elected officials; assist in the definition, development and success of the Colorado progressive infrastructure; create and support a network of progressive donors; and convene and participate in strategy discussions of short- and medium-term electoral and policy goals.

These functions are made operational through a series of ongoing services:

- Provide continuous and comprehensive research and analysis on progressive capacity
- Serve as a clearinghouse for all relevant information and data
- Ensure support and participation in pursuit of electoral goals
- Promote and assist in the coordination of progressive organizations
- Maintain an inventory/profile of all progressive organizations
- Work with funded organizations to improve performance
- Formulate funding recommendations for donor members
- Monitor the development and effectiveness of the infrastructure
- Act as liaison with national groups

ORGANIZATION AND MEMBERSHIP

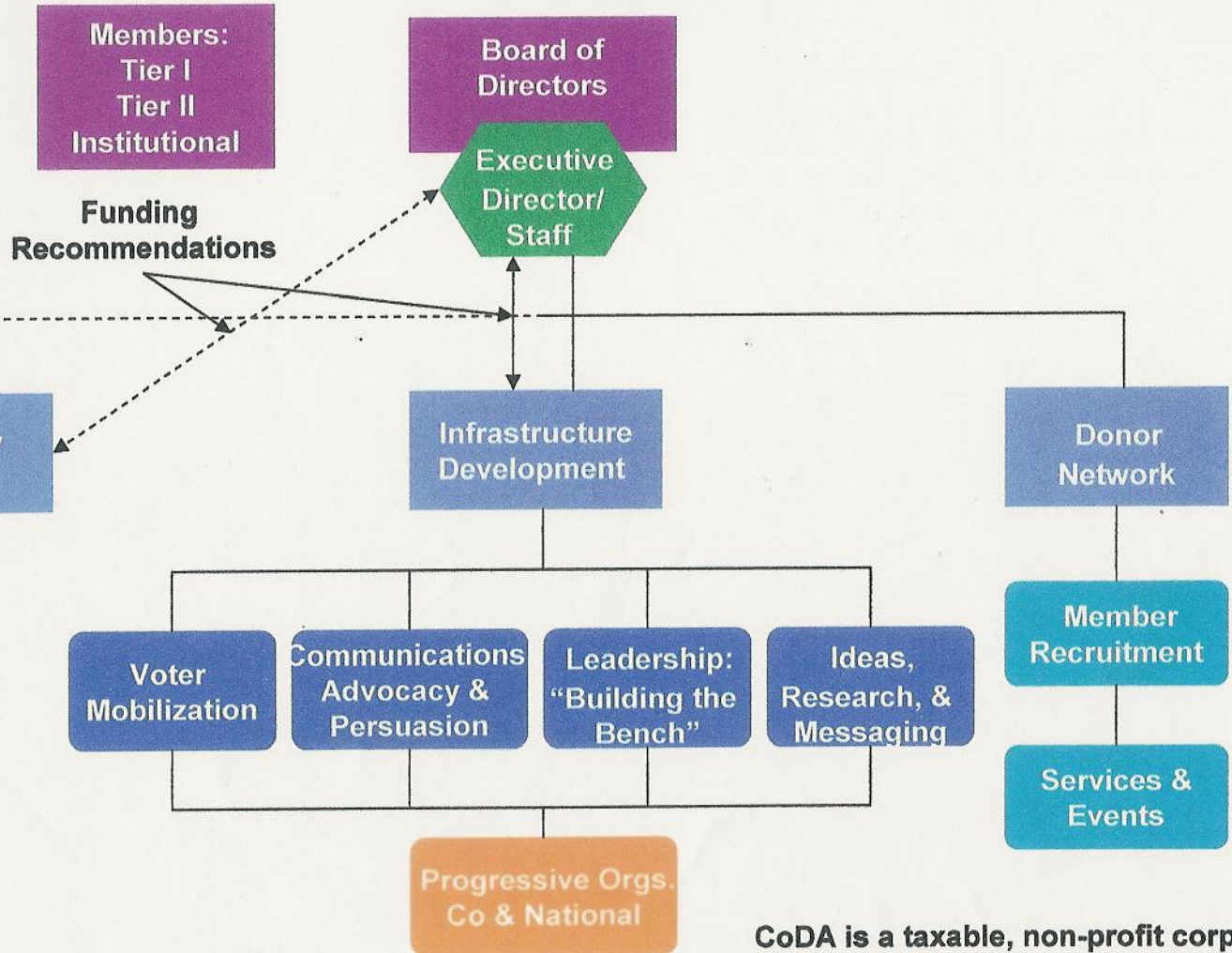
The Alliance is structured as a **taxable nonprofit organization and is not aligned with any political party**. The organization is governed by an elected Board of Directors, the members of which are drawn from the Alliance membership. The staff is led by an executive director, accountable to the Board and the Alliance membership and serving both donors and funded organizations. The budget of the organization is modest and funded through a combination of dues, contributions and grants.

Alliance members are expected to make a minimum financial contribution per year, as determined by the membership, to support Colorado progressive organizations. Three categories of members have been defined, Tier I, Tier II and Institutional, distinguished principally by annual contribution levels. Contributions are made directly to organizations (not to the Alliance) representing strategic areas of emphasis, as recommended by the Alliance.



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CoDA Organizational Structure



CoDA is a taxable, non-profit corporation.



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Membership

The Colorado Democracy Alliance is a collaboration of individual and institutional donors aligned to build and fund a statewide progressive infrastructure. Its mission is to create a sustainable progressive majority and a progressive Colorado. Alliance participants argue that the principal benefit of membership is the opportunity to support a highly focused and unique effort to move Colorado towards a better future. Other benefits include participation in conferences, workshops and special events; access to funding recommendations and research on progressive organizations; and association with a community of common purpose.

The Board of Directors of the Alliance has adopted three classes of membership:

- **Tier I** members commit to a minimum annual financial contribution of \$100k in direct support of progressive organizations identified by the Alliance. Members in this class participate in the governance structure of the Alliance and are assessed a \$12k annual membership fee which goes toward the support of the organization.
- **Tier II** members commit to a minimum annual financial contribution of \$25k in direct support of progressive organizations identified by the Alliance. Tier II members are also assessed an annual membership fee of \$2000.
- **Institutional** members are usually labor or business organizations representing a collection of members. Institutional members are expected to make a minimum annual contribution of \$400k in direct support of progressive organizations recommended by the Alliance and are assessed an annual membership fee of \$12k.

All members are asked to make a minimum three year commitment to participation in the Alliance.

As noted, the goal of the Alliance is to build and fund an effective progressive infrastructure. The infrastructure can be divided into subcategories of communications, civic engagement, leadership and ideas and specific entities may be incorporated as 501c3, 501c4, or 527 organizations. In general, the Board has agreed that the minimum funding commitments of members will be directed toward the following:

1. Strategic C3s, C4s and non-federal 527s
2. Targeted state legislative and statewide candidates
3. All Colorado federal races in the current cycle

Minimum commitments will not include contributions to candidates outside of Colorado or support for political party committees and federal 527s. For more information, please contact Courtney Messenbaugh at 303.830.6655 or courtneyessary@yahoo.com.



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SUMMARY

In Colorado, as nationally, right-wing conservatives control the political agenda and have moved increasingly toward a form of social and cultural retrenchment that ignores the central concerns of a growing majority of our state's citizens. This anti-government tilt has served to dampen hope for the future, diminish democracy and threaten our social and economic welfare.

Colorado progressives seek a better future, a more supportive role for government and public policies based in democracy, human dignity, opportunity, and a sustainable economy and environment.

The Colorado Democracy Alliance is an active collaboration of donors and progressive organizations aligned to build and fund a permanent progressive statewide infrastructure. Its mission is to create a sustainable progressive majority and a progressive Colorado, with emphasis on:

- **Facilitating collaboration among donors, progressive organizations and elected officials.**
- **Assisting in the definition, development and success of the Colorado progressive infrastructure.**
- **Creating and promoting a network of donors committed to the pursuit and enactment of initiatives consistent with the mission of the Alliance.**

DEFINING AND BUILDING THE COLORADO PROGRESSIVE INFRASTRUCTURE

The Colorado Democracy Alliance will focus on long-term strategies to develop and fund enhanced, integrated capacities in four key areas: **civic engagement and voter mobilization; intellectual content and messaging; leadership development; and media and communications.** However, the Alliance will deploy its resources in ways that emphasize short-term success, while building for long-term impact.

CREATING A PROGRESSIVE DONOR NETWORK

The Alliance will maintain a small administrative staff and suggest minimum annual contribution levels for donor members in support of Colorado progressive organizations. Through its governance structure and operating plan, **the Alliance will provide for the substantive involvement of all relevant communities;** assure adequate, efficient funding of progressive organizations; create a reliable base of research on capacity, strengths

Colorado Democracy Alliance

Board of Directors and Founding Members

Rutt Bridges, Chairman
Tom Congdon
Doug Phelps
Tim Gill
Bruce Oreck
Linda Shoemaker
Pat Stryker

Members

David Friedman
Judi Wagner
Butch Weaver
Kimbal Musk
Rob Katz
John Huggins

Institutional Members

Colorado Education Association (CEA)
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
AFL-CIO
Colorado Trial Lawyers Association (CTLA)

CDA STAFF

Interim Executive Director

Albert C. Yates

Director of Planning & Assessment

Courtney A. E. Messenbaugh

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