

CHICAGO COMMUNITY BOND FUND



YEAR-END REPORT 2018

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OVERVIEW



At the Rally to #EndMoneyBail in September 2018.

Over the past year, Chicago Community Bond Fund has made tremendous progress in improving pretrial justice in Cook County.

Last fall, a local court rule took effect that reduced the number of people incarcerated in Cook County Jail by 1,500 within just three months. CCBF worked closely with our partners in the Coalition to End Money Bond to monitor the impact of the reform and hold judges accountable to its requirement of affordable money bonds.

We also continued to pay bond for people whose freedom was determined by their access to wealth, and we posted our largest amount of money ever: More than \$350,000 in bond to free 68 people from Cook County Jail or house arrest with electronic monitoring (EM). This annual report covers our work from November 2017 through October 2018. That means that every bond we paid to free someone from jail was posted after Cook County adopted a policy that no one should be jailed awaiting trial solely because of their inability to afford a money bond.

That's why our fight to end money bail and pretrial incarceration continues. In 2018, CCBF authored or co-authored three original reports, was featured in 60 local and national media articles, and participated in 40 educational events that reached more than 1,500 people. CCBF also maintains our accountability to grassroots movements for Black liberation and support for criminalized communities organizing for a more just future. This past year, we continued to support the #NoCopAcademy Campaign and forged new partnerships with Believers Bail Out and the Challenging E-Carceration Campaign at the Center for Media Justice. These new collaborations represent the future of our work for transformative pretrial justice: We are expanding the conversation and connecting it to struggles for racial and economic justice in a variety of spaces and among many different communities.

**Winning this fight will take all of us.
Thank you for being part of it!**

OUR MISSION

The Chicago Community Bond Fund (CCBF) pays bond for people charged with crimes in Cook County, Illinois. Through a revolving fund, CCBF supports individuals whose communities cannot afford to pay the bonds themselves and who have been impacted by structural violence. Inability to pay bond results in higher rates of conviction, longer sentences, loss of housing and jobs, separation of families, and lost custody of children. By paying bond, CCBF restores the presumption of innocence before trial and enables recipients to remain free while fighting their cases. CCBF also engages in public education about the role of bond in the criminal legal system and advocates for the abolition of money bond. CCBF is committed to long-term relationship building and organizing with people most directly impacted by criminalization and policing.



CCBF'S HISTORY

For the first two years, CCBF operated entirely on volunteer labor. As the organization's work rapidly expanded, we hired our first employee in February 2017. While much of CCBF's work is still driven by volunteers, CCBF now has a staff of four full-time and two part-time employees. Hiring staff has allowed CCBF to maintain regular paying of bonds, dramatically expand our advocacy work, and better support new volunteers in all areas of our operations. Our staff will help drive a big push to end money bond in 2019.

Nearly 100 volunteers also sustain CCBF's work, including operation of the revolving bail fund and local and national advocacy efforts to end money bond and pretrial incarceration. These volunteers work tirelessly to follow up on requests for help paying bond, fundraise to replenish the revolving fund and sustain our work, support people freed from jail, and advance CCBF's public education and campaign work.

Decisions about who to post bond for are made by a Review Committee composed of people who are not part of the collective and who are involved in Chicago's many movements for abolition and racial justice. We are committed to ensuring that people who are formerly incarcerated, those whose loved ones are currently or formerly incarcerated, and those whose communities are disproportionately harmed by criminalization have decision-making power regarding who CCBF pays bond for.

Review Committee membership rotates, but currently includes organizers with Black and Pink Chicago, Love & Protect, Moms United Against Violence and Incarceration, People's Response Team, and Survived and Punished.



Founding members of CCBF in February 2016.

CCBF STAFF

Sharlyn Grace
Co-Executive Director

Matthew McLoughlin
Director of Programs

Lavette Mayes
Advocate

Emma Rubin
Co-Executive Director

Ruby Pinto
Campaign Coordinator for the
Coalition to End Money Bond

Devoureaux Wolf
Advocate

ADVOCACY EFFORTS



At the Rally to #EndMoneyBail in September 2018.

Paying bond will never end pretrial incarceration on its own. While we continue to post bond and free people nearly every week as part of our commitment to harm reduction and mutual aid, CCBF has also advanced our efforts to win lasting, systemic change to pretrial procedures. Working within the Coalition to End Money Bond, housed at CCBF, we are expanding our sights from Cook County to the state of Illinois. CCBF's work over the last three years has influenced the conversation around money bond and achieved policy changes that reduced the number of people incarcerated in Cook County by more than 1,500. These efforts have included supporting litigation and legislation, monitoring the implementation of reforms to hold system actors accountable, lifting up the stories of people impacted by the current pretrial system, and challenging traditional narratives about public safety, risk, and punishment.

In 2019, CCBF will be making a large, state-wide push to end money bond and pretrial incarceration. In December 2017, the Illinois Supreme Court established a commission to examine pretrial practices across the state. The commission will release its findings and recommendations for reform in December 2019. Those recommendations will create an opportunity for permanent, transformative bond reform designed to decrease the number of people incarcerated awaiting trial in Illinois. CCBF will focus our advocacy efforts in 2019 on influencing the commission's findings, building support for progressive bond reform across the state of Illinois, and supporting organizing in counties outside of Cook.

CCBF's work over the last three years has achieved policy changes that reduced the number of people incarcerated in Cook County Jail by more than 1,500.

ADVOCACY EFFORTS

COURTWATCHING TO HOLD THE SYSTEM ACCOUNTABLE: GENERAL ORDER 18.8A

On September 17, 2017, a new local court rule took effect in Cook County. General Order 18.8A instructs all criminal court judges to set money bonds only in amounts that people can afford to pay, facilitating their release. The order was a direct response to litigation supported by CCBF and the Coalition to End Money Bond. On paper, it eliminated wealth-based pretrial incarceration and should have greatly reduced the number of people incarcerated awaiting trial in Cook County. The rule was an attempt to bring practices in Cook County courtrooms into line with both existing state law and federal constitutional limits on pretrial incarceration.

Knowing how resistant the courts can be to change, CCBF and the Coalition to End Money Bond planned to monitor the rule's actual impact on people in the court system and evaluate whether judges followed its mandate. The Coalition trained more than 100 community members to monitor and record outcomes in bond court, and volunteers were present every weekday for one month before the order took effect and one month after.



Courtwatching report release party in March 2018.

In February 2018, the Coalition to End Money Bond released “Monitoring Cook County’s Central Bond Court: A Community Courtwatching Initiative,” a comprehensive 60 page report on the implementation of General Order 18.8A based on the data collected by courtwatchers. The conclusion was that while judges did not stop setting unaffordable money bonds, the overall number of money bonds set and the amounts set were significantly lower. Results, however, varied widely by judge.

CCBF continued to work with Coalition to End Money Bond partners and other interested parties to monitor outcomes in bond court throughout 2017 and much of 2018. On September 18, 2018 (the one-year anniversary of the order taking effect), the Coalition released a supplemental report: “Shifting Sands: An Investigation Into the First Year Of Bond Reform in Cook County.” The report found that judges across the board were adhering to the order less and issuing more money bonds, often in unaffordable amounts, as time passed. It also noted continued uneven results across judges. This second report was downloaded from CCBF’s website more 1,200 times in the first month after its release.

Also on September 18th, the Coalition organized a rally that brought together more than 250 people, including representatives from 35 bail and bond funds visiting from across the country. The rally was endorsed by over 50 community organizations who joined us in calling for the full implementation of General Order 18.8A and an end to pretrial incarceration in Cook County. NFL Pro Bowl running back, philanthropist, and activist Matt Forte joined us to amplify this call.

CCBF’s accountability efforts around General Order 18.8A have reinforced the importance

ADVOCACY EFFORTS

of addressing the chasm that can exist between policies changed on paper and shifts in practice and culture in courtrooms. Our work has also served as a model for other bail funds and community organizations around the country. There are now similar courtwatching efforts underway in New York City, Massachusetts, Philadelphia, and California.

Changing the way Cook County courts treat Black people and marginalized communities will take ongoing vigilance, including monitoring outcomes, talking to and learning from impacted people, and holding elected officials accountable to their promises. Courtwatching and other accountability efforts have required the commitment of dozens of community organizations and hundreds of dedicated volunteers. We remain committed to pursuing full implementation of General Order 18.8A in 2019, and CCBF is hopeful that our efforts will continue to decrease the number of people incarcerated in Cook County Jail and ensure that judges do not return to the unjust practices that were routine before the order took effect.

CHALLENGING UNLAWFUL DETENTION: LAWSUIT AGAINST THE COOK COUNTY SHERIFF

In February 2018, CCBF worked with Thedford Garber Law to file a class action lawsuit against Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart's practice of unconstitutionally denying people release on electronic monitoring. In interviews with the Chicago Sun-Times and Chicago Tribune just the week before, Sheriff Dart had announced the implementation of unilateral reviews for people whose bond conditions he found unsatisfactory. This meant that individuals whose bonds had been paid or who were otherwise eligible for release were detained in Cook County Jail in order for the Sheriff's Office to conduct

their own additional discretionary "reviews" of the presumed innocent people's current charges and backgrounds. CCBF stumbled upon the impact of this practice just a few days after it was announced when we paid bond for Taphia Williams. After we paid the money required to secure Ms. Williams' release from jail onto EM, we discovered that she was still in Cook County Jail three days later. Ms. Williams was not released onto electronic monitoring as ordered by the court until after this lawsuit was filed on her behalf. She is currently fighting her criminal case with CCBF's ongoing support.

This case recently survived a motion to dismiss filed by the Sheriff and will proceed on its merits. In September 2018, Federal District Court Judge Harry Leinenweber found that the plaintiffs have viable procedural and substantive due process claims against the Sheriff for detaining individuals after they had been cleared for release by a judge. Ms. Williams represents a class of impacted individuals in the federal civil rights lawsuit, and records obtained via freedom of information act requests show that as many as 80



CCBF Advocate Devoureaux Wolf speaking before a court date in April 2018.

ADVOCACY EFFORTS

people may have been impacted by this unconstitutional practice in just the one week that it was in place. CCBF will continue to support Ms. Williams and the other plaintiffs in this important fight for justice!

SHERIFF'S BUDGET REPORT

In October 2018, CCBF released “Money for Communities, Not Cages: The Case for Reducing the Cook County Sheriff's Jail Budget” just in time for the Cook County Board's budget hearings. General Order 18.8A caused the number of people incarcerated in Cook County Jail to drop by more than 1,500 in three short months, following a gradual decline in the jail population by thousands over the previous 5 years. CCBF analyzed the budget of Cook County Jail from 2013-2018 and compared it to the number of people in jail, pushing the Invest-Divest framework developed by the Movement for Black Lives and BYP 100. The Invest-Divest platform calls on government at all levels to both invest in community well-being and divest from systems of punishment and control. CCBF found that while the number of people in Cook County Jail decreased by 44% from 2013-2015, the Sheriff's budget increased 28% over that same period.



Ruby Pinto, CCBF's Campaign Coordinator, calling for decreased spending on the jail at an October 2018 Cook County budget hearing.

The report goes on to argue that this historic decrease in the number of people in Cook County Jail should coincide with a similar decrease in the jail budget, which was over \$360 million in 2018. Instead of finding new ways to spend County resources in the Sheriff's budget, funds should be redirected to services benefitting Cook County's most marginalized communities. Communities who have been most impacted by Cook County's practice of unconstitutionally incarcerating people pretrial through the application of unaffordable money bonds are the very same ones most in need of proactive investments in housing, medical and mental healthcare access, jobs programs, and other services.

ADVOCACY EFFORTS

EVENTS

In 2018, CCBF participated in 40 public events and spoke to more than 1,500 organizers, advocates, service providers, students, and members of faith communities about the harms of pretrial incarceration and how we can organize together to end it. Several of these events were hosted by CCBF along with our partner organizations. A sample of the event we organized or co-organized:

MARCH 2018

Organized a teach-in marking the release of the Coalition to End Money Bond's report, "Monitoring Cook County's Central Bond Court: A Community Courtwatching Initiative," and sharing the findings with more than fifty people.

JULY 2018

Worked with the Challenging E-Carceration Campaign and Center for Media Justice to host the half-day event, "Challenging Electronic Monitoring in Cook County." Speakers included people with personal experience on EM, community organizations, and policy analysts in conversation about the harms caused by electronic monitoring to people on house arrest in the pretrial, juvenile, parole, and immigration contexts. More than 100 people attended.

SEPTEMBER 2018

Co-hosted the second annual convening of the National Bail Fund Network. Thirty-five community bail and bond funds, paying both criminal bail and immigration bonds, came together in Chicago to share skills and lessons learned and further build the movement to end money bail and immigration detention across the United States. In addition to co-hosting the event, CCBF's Director of Programs, Matt McLoughlin, co-facilitated a discussion around support for people after they are bonded out.

Welcoming 35 criminal bail and immigration bond funds from around the country to Chicago in September 2018 for the National Bail Fund Network's second annual convening.



ADVOCACY EFFORTS

IN THE MEDIA

In our third year, CCBF was featured in 60 local and national media reports discussing our work and the movement to abolish money bond and pretrial incarceration. These media reports featured CCBF co-founders and people we posted bond for sharing stories about their experiences in Cook County Jail or on electronic monitoring

CCBF's work was featured in *Al Jazeera*, *The Chicago Reporter*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *In These Times*, *Teen Vogue*, *Truthout*, and other outlets large and small. Since our first year, CCBF has doubled the number of news articles we have been featured in every year. Through the publication of three reports in 2018 and media coverage surrounding CCBF's advocacy efforts, Chief Judge Evans, Sheriff Tom Dart, and other political figures have all responded directly to CCBF's content in the mainstream Chicago press. For example, the *Chicago Sun-Times* ran an article examining bond court Judge Michael Clancy's fitness for retention, which featured the Coalition's analysis of his use of unaffordable money bonds as captured in "Shifting Sands: An Investigation into the First Year of Bond Reform in Cook County" and a quote from CCBF Co-Executive Director Sharlyn Grace. Three years into our work, CCBF is shaping the public conversation about money bond in Cook County and nationally through extensive social media outreach, original research and reports, and direct participation in discussion with public figures.

CCBF's work has been featured in *Al Jazeera*, *The Chicago Reporter*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *In These Times*, *Teen Vogue*, *Truthout*, and other outlets large and small.

ON SOCIAL MEDIA

On Facebook, CCBF's posts received more than 1.4 million impressions in the last year. On average, CCBF reached more than 2,435 people on Facebook every day, a 9.5% increase from the year before. Our content was engaged with 31,200 times, up 14.2% from 2017. Original educational videos created by CCBF were viewed more than 67,500 times on Facebook and were shared more than 975 times. The number of people who followed CCBF on Facebook increased by 37.87% this year.

CCBF grew its Twitter audience by more than 2,202 followers in 2018. Our tweets were retweeted more than 9,000 times, and original educational videos created by CCBF were viewed more than 55,088 times on Twitter and retweeted 967 times.

POSTING BOND IN OUR THIRD YEAR

From November 2017 through October 2018, CCBF paid \$364,850 in bond to free 68 people from Cook County Jail or house arrest with electronic monitoring. While this work has always been central to CCBF's mission, it took on a new importance in 2018. Not only is our revolving fund restoring the presumption of innocence and reuniting people with their communities while they face trial, it also is making it abundantly clear that General Order 18.8A is failing to do what it was designed to: end wealth-based incarceration in Cook County.

By paying bond, CCBF enabled people to receive adequate medical attention for life-threatening illnesses, keep their jobs and housing, and maintain custody of their children. Had the order been implemented as written, these 68 people would not have had an unaffordable price set on their freedom that required the intervention of a charitable bail fund such as CCBF.

CCBF is honored to be able to pay bond to free our neighbors across Cook County, but this work should not be necessary. We remain committed to paying bond for those that cannot afford it as we continue working towards a world where it is no longer necessary to purchase anyone's freedom.



A CCBF community meal in January 2018.

NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH BELIEVERS BAIL OUT

In spring 2018, CCBF was approached by a diverse group of Muslim organizations interested in fundraising to pay bond for Muslims incarcerated while awaiting trial. During Ramadan, Muslims pay zakat, an annual tax on wealth. One of the eight uses for zakat described in the Qur'an is the freeing of slaves or captives. Inspired by the National Mamas Bail Out Day, Believers Bail Out (BBO) had the idea to solicit zakat and other donations to free Muslims incarcerated on unaffordable money bonds.

From the beginning, Believers Bail Out was clear that fundraising and bailing people out was only one aspect of their work. They also committed to doing deep educational work and advocacy, using the bail out concept and zakat donations as a way to draw more Muslims into the fight to end money bail and pretrial incarceration. Specifically, BBO committed to doing political education around the prison industrial complex, anti-Muslim racism, and anti-Blackness. During Ramadan, CCBF joined Believers Bail Out for a webinar with MPower Change and a twitter chat about money bond and pretrial incarceration. Their efforts reached thousands of people.



CCBF speaking at a community iftar organized by Believers Bail Out in May 2018.

Since many BBO organizers were based in Chicago, CCBF became the first bail fund partner of their community-led Ramadan fundraising and education effort. Together, BBO and CCBF paid \$15,000 in bond to free two people in 2018. Now, BBO has expanded to include partnerships with bail funds in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Minnesota and has plans to fundraise during Ramadan in 2019. They also continue to organize and participate in educational events as part of the larger national movement to end wealth-based incarceration.

HOW OUR REVOLVING FUND WORKS

More information on CCBF's revolving bond fund, including the criteria we use in prioritizing requests for help paying bond, is available on our website, www.chicagobond.org.



Police make an arrest. Some people charged with misdemeanors and all people charged with felonies go to bond court.



Bail decisions are made in mere minutes. This determines whether someone is released or detained while their case is pending.



People who can pay bond are released. People who cannot pay bond are incarcerated at Cook County Jail or in their homes—often for months or even years.



Chicago Community Bond Fund helps family members and friends pay bond when they can't afford it themselves.



After their bond is paid, the person is released from jail. People free on bond have better case outcomes than people who are locked up.



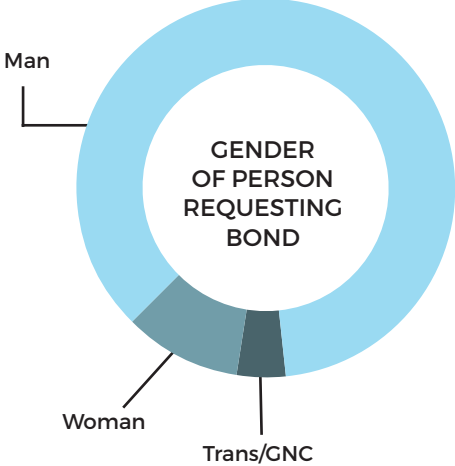
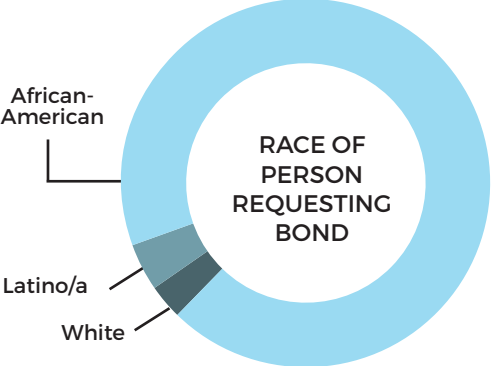
At the conclusion of the case, the bond money is returned to CCBF's revolving fund and can be used to free more people from Cook County Jail or house arrest.

REQUESTS FOR HELP PAYING BOND

While CCBF is ultimately working to end the use of money bond and pretrial incarceration altogether, we continue to mitigate some of the harms caused by money bond and pretrial incarceration by paying bond for people incarcerated in Cook County Jail who cannot afford the price placed on their freedom. Even though General Order 18.8A should have made the need for a bond fund obsolete in Cook County, we have continued to receive hundreds of calls from the loved ones of people incarcerated on unaffordable money bonds. Because Cook County judges continue to regularly assign money bonds, we are unable to afford the cost of paying bond for everyone that requires it.

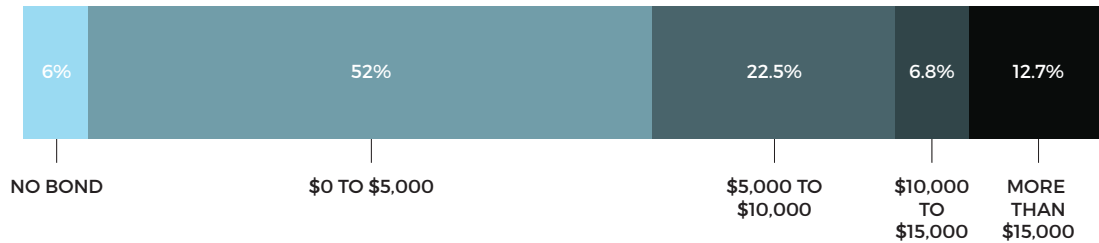
Of the people requesting CCBF's help paying bond this past year, 92% were male, 88% were Black, and 58% were under the age of 30. CCBF also received calls on behalf of nearly 100 Latinx people, and several trans or gender non-conforming people who are particularly vulnerable to violence and discrimination in the jail. The percentage of Black people in Cook County Jail is already hugely disproportionate, with Black people comprising 74% of the people in jail and only 24% of the general population of Cook County. The overrepresentation of Black men in the calls we receive is consistent with the fact that Black people are more likely to be ordered to pay a money bond, receive higher money bonds than white people in similar circumstances, and are less likely to be able to afford to pay a money bond due to historic and systemic racism.

Even though General Order 18.8A mandates that judges consider an accused person's ability to pay if a money bond will be set, judges continue to set bonds that far exceed the resources available to many families and communities. Over the last year, CCBF received calls from nearly 150 people who were required to pay more than \$15,000 to buy their freedom. Forty-two percent of the people who called CCBF had bonds requiring payment of more than \$5,000.



REQUESTS FOR HELP PAYING BOND

BOND REQUEST BY AMOUNT



One of the greatest barriers to the number of bonds that CCBF is able to post is the high amounts required to free each person. In Cook County, judges regularly set bonds in excess of \$5,000, and in 2018 the average bond that someone requested our help paying was over \$8,000. A bond fund is not a sustainable solution to the injustice of money bonds, and CCBF is unable to pay bond for most of the people who request our help. To post bond for everyone who requested help in 2018 alone would have cost more than \$7.1 million.

PEOPLE FREED

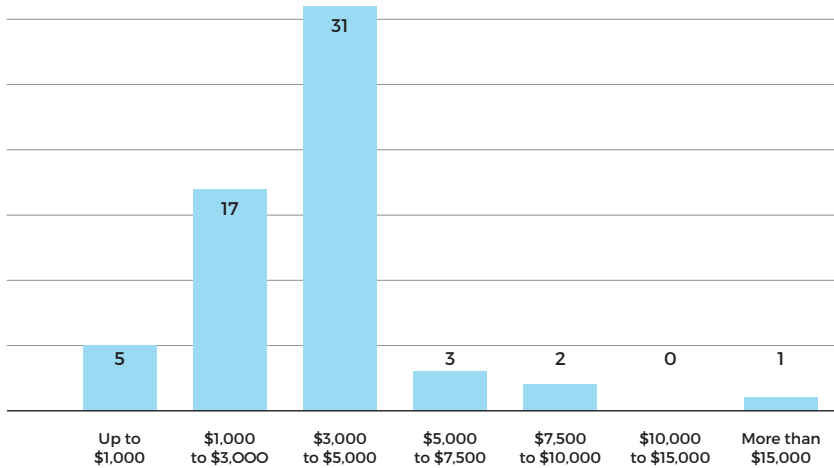
In the last year, CCBF was able to pay bond for 68 people that would otherwise have remained incarcerated either in Cook County Jail or in their own homes on electronic monitoring. Each of these 68 people has been able to return to their family, job, and community while they fight their case. This is what “presumed innocent until proven guilty” should mean. Of these 68 people, 46 had their bonds set by a judge after General Order 18.8A went into effect on September 18, 2017.

Because we are unable to pay bond for every person who needs it, CCBF prioritizes people who are at heightened risk of victimization in the jail and people who are particularly harmed by structural violence and systemic racism. In keeping with these priorities, 62 people we paid bond for (91%) are Black, and we paid bond for all three transgender people who requested our help, two of whom are Black trans women that were locked up in men’s divisions of Cook County Jail.

We paid bond for 12 people under the age of 20 (including one juvenile charged as an adult), 24 people between ages 20 and 30, 27 people between the ages of 30 and 50, and 5 people over the age of 50.

In total, CCBF paid more than \$283,000, supplemented by nearly \$80,000 of loved ones’ money, to free the 68 people described above. For many people, a \$500 bond may as well be a \$5,000,000 bond—any bond set above a person’s ability to pay is a sentence to incarceration. In 2018, CCBF paid five bonds that were less than \$1,000, and 17 more bonds that were between \$1,000 and \$3,000. Most of the bonds that we paid were between \$3,000 and \$5,000 (53%), and we posted bond for 3 people whose bonds were over \$7,500. The average bond we posted was approximately \$4,200.

CCBF BONDS POSTED



CASE OUTCOMES FOR PEOPLE FREED



CCBF has paid more than \$945,000 to free 172 people from the jail or electronic monitoring in the three years since we formed. Of those 172, 88 people's cases have completely resolved, including 30 cases that resolved in 2018. In the 88 resolved cases, CCBF posted more than \$510,000, with nearly all of that money being returned at the end of the case. Clerk's fees and court-imposed fines, fees, and costs retained a total of \$22,131 (or about 5% of the total amount posted). Combined with supplemental money contributed by families and communities, we have been able to recover approximately 93% of the total money paid in bond over the last 3 years.

It is easier to participate in one's own defense when free while awaiting trial, and studies have shown that the outcomes of a criminal case are better when a person is not incarcerated pretrial. Of the 88 people whose cases have completely resolved, 20 were not convicted of anything. These 20 people spent a combined 2,946 days in the jail before CCBF posted their bond—an average of 147 days per person—only to have their cases dismissed or to be found not guilty. If they had remained incarcerated pretrial, they may have been forced to plead guilty or wait longer in jail for their cases to be dismissed. This is one of the most obvious illustrations of the injustice of money bond and how it eliminates the presumption of innocence; prosecutors, and even defense attorneys, may be able to simply wait until a person has no choice but to plead guilty to end a case even if it might otherwise be dismissed (as 14 of these cases were), or result in a “not guilty” verdict (as 4 of these cases did).

Of the 88 people whose cases have completely resolved, 20 were not convicted of anything. These 20 people spent a combined 2,946 days in the jail before CCBF posted their bond—an average of 147 days per person.

Fighting a case, however, is not easy simply because a person is freed on bond. Attending court significantly disrupts a person's life. Court dates occur roughly once per month,

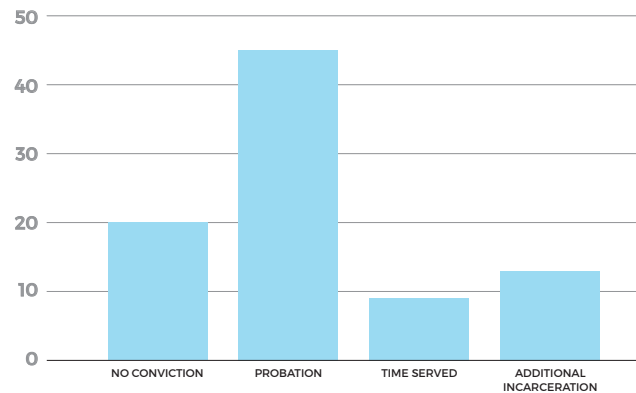
CASE OUTCOMES FOR PEOPLE FREED

always on weekdays, and a person may have to wait several hours in the courtroom before their case is heard. If they are late by even a few minutes, a judge can issue a warrant for their arrest and forfeit their bond. Moreover, the threat of a prison sentence hangs over the head of everyone facing a felony charge. Of the people CCBF has paid bond for, 45 have pleaded guilty or been convicted and sentenced to a term of some form of probation. Those 45 people spent a total of 2,952 days in jail before CCBF posted their bond, 65.6 days per person on average.

Of the 23 people who were sentenced to jail or prison time as a result of a conviction, 9 people were sentenced to an incarceration term of time already served, and served no additional time in a cage when their cases resolved. Fourteen people we paid bond for were convicted of crimes and forced to return to jail or prison.

The 88 people whose cases have resolved spent a total of 18,031 days at liberty on bond after we purchased their freedom and before their cases ended: an incredible 49.4 years that people might otherwise have spent in a cage.

CASE OUTCOMES FOR PEOPLE CCBF POSTED BOND FOR



STORIES OF PEOPLE WE PAID BOND FOR





RODERICK'S STORY

Roderick was incarcerated for five months on charges that were unprovable.

Roderick spent five months incarcerated in Cook County Jail after he was arrested and charged with possessing a gun in March 2017. Before his arrest, Roderick worked at a restaurant and was in line for a promotion at his job. He lived with his mother, helping her pay bills and rent, and he also supported his partner and their twins, who were only three months old at the time. Roderick's bond was initially set at \$50,000, but was eventually lowered to \$30,000. Chicago Community Bond Fund paid \$3,000 to secure Roderick's release from jail in July 2017.

Roderick's charges were immediately dropped at his first court appearance after his bond was paid due to lack of evidence. Roderick was incarcerated for five months on charges that were unprovable. During the time he was in jail awaiting trial, Roderick missed the first few months of his children's lives and was unable to financially support his mom, sister, and partner. He lost his job, and his car was repossessed. Roderick's whole family was impacted by his incarceration.

One year later, Roderick is still rebuilding his life after his time in Cook County Jail.

He has found a new job at an ice cream shop, and his twins have recently started walking. While Roderick and his family are recovering, they should never had been put through this destabilizing and violent experience because of an unaffordable money bond.

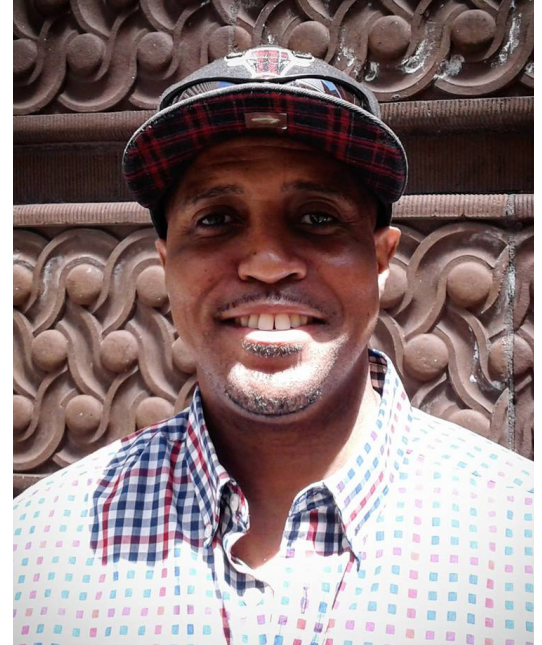
LEONARD'S STORY

In March 2018, CCBF posted \$3,000 to free Leonard from house arrest with electronic monitoring. Leonard was incarcerated in his own home for nine months before CCBF paid his bond .

Leonard describes those nine months as depressing and stressful: "Being on EM, not being able to go about my daily functions, it was depressing I will say that. I couldn't find employment or spend time with family. I missed Mother's Day, birthdays, graduations. It's like a facade... I couldn't get the jobs even though I had job offers. That was the most depressing part of it, that I couldn't maintain employment."

While on EM, Leonard was often forced to rely on his family for support. They all provided a strong social support system and regularly helped him get groceries and other necessities. Leonard says that "A lot of people had to help me out. I felt useless and miserable, it felt like I was in the County." Other people on EM that CCBF has supported do not have family members to bring them groceries or other necessary items like medicine. It is often impossible to provide for themselves given EM's restrictions.

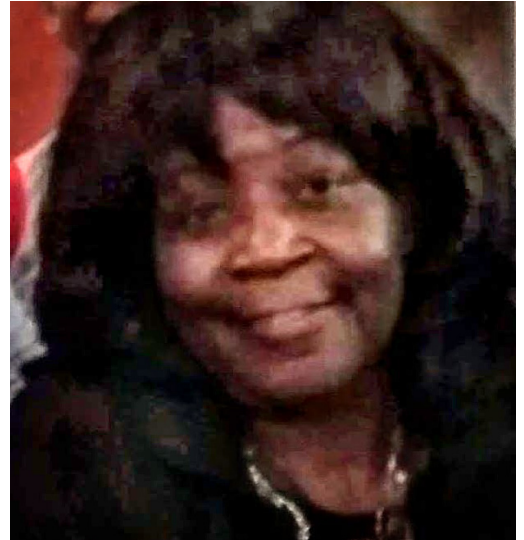
Electronic monitoring is seen by many as an alternative to being incarcerated at Cook County Jail. Leonard, however, found it to be nearly as restrictive as being in the jail: "EM prevented me from doing my everyday activities. Even though they tell you that you can maintain employment, that you can go grocery shopping, or see your family, it's not true."



YVETTE'S STORY

Yvette's son, Tim, has been on electronic monitoring at her apartment in South Shore for almost an entire year. CCBF worked with Yvette to pay Tim's \$6,500 bond (a \$65,000 D-Bond) and secure his release on EM in September 2017. Before his release, Tim had been incarcerated for four months in Cook County Jail because neither he nor his family could afford to pay his money bond.

Tim is a 30 year old father of four children ages 1 to 10. Before he was arrested, he had just completed a construction apprenticeship program. Tim's release on EM from Cook County Jail requires him to live in Yvette's apartment and stay within a certain foot radius of a box installed in her home. Since Tim has no permission to leave the house except to go to court, he cannot work and Yvette, who is retired and has four children and eleven grandchildren, has had to help him and his family financially while his case is pending.



"When someone is incarcerated, it takes a toll on the whole family—especially if they have children," says Yvette. While she's happy that Tim is home, she wishes he was allowed to wait for his trial without any imposed conditions. "Tim, he gets stir crazy from time to time, especially because he can only leave the house to go to his court. He hasn't been able to work for almost a year now and he gets frustrated that he has to depend on others to provide for him."

"When someone is incarcerated, it takes a toll on the whole family—especially if they have children."

Yvette lives on a fixed income, so the extra financial burden is not easy. EM has shifted the cost of housing and food from the County to her, which has stretched her budget thin. Although they have enough for the necessities, the family doesn't have money for any extra costs. For example, Yvette hasn't been able to visit family outside of Illinois in months, which is a big sacrifice for her.

Tim himself has also missed a lot of important family events, including their largest gathering, which is hosted annually on the first Saturday in August. Every year, more than 100 family members get together to celebrate at a local park in Chicago. Yvette has tried hosting several gatherings at her place so that Tim can be a part of them, but it's not the same.

Having her son on EM in her home has also increased the level of surveillance and stress that Yvette herself is under. Sheriff's deputies have shown up and come inside

YVETTE'S STORY

her apartment several times over the last 11 months, including once at 3:00AM, claiming they had to make sure that Tim had not left the house. Technical difficulties with EM equipment are also a constant worry. They never know when the EM box is going to beep, wrongly signaling that Tim has left the apartment, or malfunction (like it did during a power outage), which could lead to Tim being put back in Cook County Jail. Whenever the EM box beeps, Tim is supposed to report it immediately by phone. The problem is that the Sheriff's Office rarely answers the phone when Tim calls. Once, Tim tried calling in to make sure his movement was approved for court just like he does every time, but no one answered. This created a real dilemma: Should he risk re-arrest and jail by going to court or risk violating his bond by missing court? He decided to risk going to court.

This experience has been difficult and also eye-opening for Yvette. "It is so sad for so many people who have no access to money, who plead guilty just to get out because the situation is so unbearable inside. This happened to my other son one time, even though they had no evidence against him. That is not justice."

TIMOTHY'S STORY

In June 2017, Timothy and his wife had a new baby boy. At the time, they were living in suburban Glendale Heights with their two other children, and Timothy was working full time with a real estate company. Before moving to DuPage County, Timothy had grown up on the Westside of Chicago. From 2013 to 2015, Timothy and his wife gave back to their community by helping his family to run a food pantry. Things were looking good for Timothy, and at the age of 30 he was able to move his family out to the suburbs and hold down a great job.

Unfortunately, Timothy was arrested in October 2017 and given a \$100,000 D-bond, meaning he needed \$10,000 to purchase his freedom. Timothy says of his arrest, "I knew I wasn't going to be able to pay a \$10,000 bond. All the unknowns started coming to my mind, like how was my wife going to take care of my kids, how would they pay rent, who was going to pay for daycare? I was concerned for my family because I had no idea how they'd get through in my absence." Within a month, their landlord had begun eviction proceedings against the family. His two oldest kids missed their father, and his wife was on her own taking care of the children and raising the newborn.

Timothy was given a bond reduction that brought his bond down to \$50,000 D (requiring payment of \$5,000). When the judge lowered his bond, he added house arrest with electronic monitoring as a condition of Timothy's release. Eventually, Timothy's wife found CCBF through a Google search. She applied for CCBF's help paying bond and shortly thereafter, Timothy's bond was paid and he was free to be released from jail—onto electronic monitoring.

Electronic monitoring was a horrible experience for Timothy. He wasn't able to get movement to work for two months. One day, while on house arrest, Timothy thought his appendix was going to burst. He withstood with the pain for several hours before finally deciding to call the Sheriff's Department to ask for movement to go to the hospital. The Sheriff's Department told him that if he left the apartment, he would be subject to arrest for violating his EM. He was told to call an ambulance, and that the Sheriff's Department would talk to the EMTs and then decide whether or not he actually needed to leave home for medical reasons.

In February 2018, Timothy began working again. Soon after, he was able to get a new apartment for his family. When they secured their new home, Timothy had to send his



Lavette Mayes, James Kilgore, and Sharlyn Grace presenting on our shared fight against e-carceration.

TIMOTHY'S STORY

family ahead without him because it took over a week for the Sheriff's Department to move the electronic monitoring equipment to his new residence. By the time his case ended, Timothy had spent 345 days on electronic monitoring.

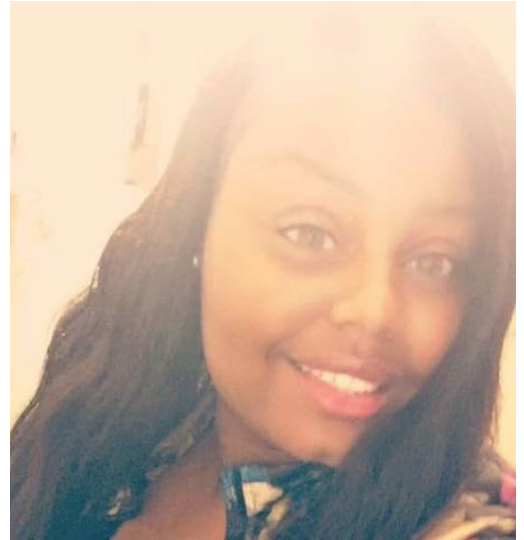
Now that his case is completely over, Timothy is working full-time running his own real estate business. Last month, he and his partner filed the non-profit incorporation paperwork necessary to get the food pantry started up again. Timothy, his wife, and all three children are living together happily in Englewood. Timothy is glad to have this experience behind him and to be starting a new chapter in his life.



Timothy and his wife in November 2018.

SHIENELL'S STORY

Shienell has always been independent and self-sufficient. At the age of 17, she left home and got her own apartment. Working full-time doing marketing for an energy company, she quickly became a manager. In February 2017, Shienell decided to go back to school to study phlebotomy (drawing blood). Four months away from graduation at age 21, she was arrested and incarcerated in Cook County Jail on \$75,000 D-bond, meaning she needed \$7,500 to remain free while awaiting trial.



When Shienell heard the high bond amount, her heart sank because she knew she didn't have that money. While in jail, Shienell lost her job, and her car was towed and impounded. Shienell described the conditions in Cook County Jail as horrible: "There was mold throughout the building, and women didn't have regular access to hygiene products. I am a diabetic and was not getting the medication that I need. The food was making my conditions worse. Whenever there was a disturbance in the jail, distribution of medication or other necessities would be cut off for the day."

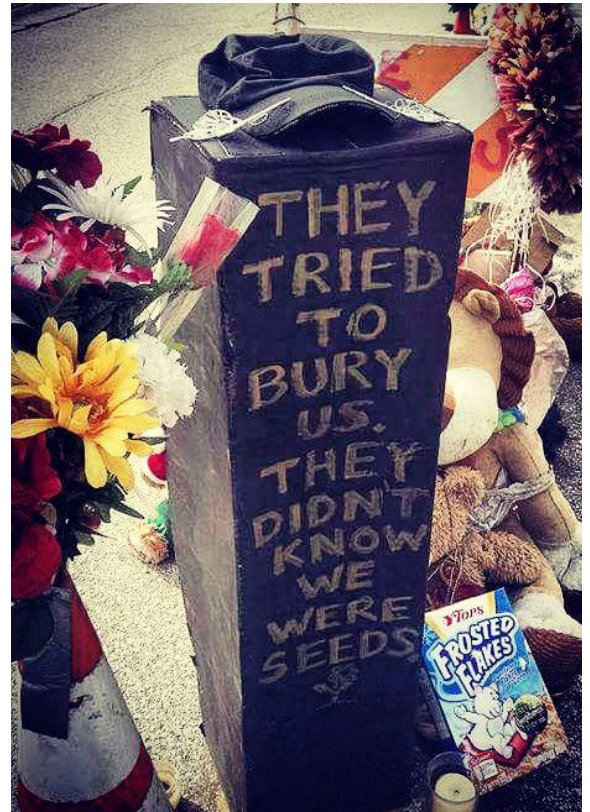
After a month and a half of incarceration, Shienell found out about Chicago Community Bond Fund. CCBF worked with Shienell's family to pay her bond, and she was freed in October 2017. At first, Shienell struggled to find new work. By May 2018, Shienell had gotten a job as a data analyst downtown and was able to purchase a car. In September, her charges were dropped down to a misdemeanor and the case wrapped up without her having to do any time! Despite the overall positive resolution of the case, Shienell was still deeply impacted: **"This was a learning experience for me. I wish more people knew that even if you're innocent, you won't be treated as such."**

CONCLUSION

In just three years, Chicago Community Bond Fund has been able to radically shift the conversation around pretrial incarceration and help reduce the number of people incarcerated in Cook County Jail by more than 1,500. CCBF remains committed to freeing people incarcerated pretrial on unaffordable money bonds through our revolving bond fund. At the same time, we continue to be confronted with the reality that the problem of wealth-based incarceration cannot be solved by generosity and mutual aid alone.

Working with our partners in the Coalition to End Money Bond, we have created a diverse movement for pretrial justice that is set to grow beyond Cook County in 2019. We are excited to expand our work statewide and to begin to invest even more of our energy in enacting transformative bond reform in Illinois.

In December 2019, the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Pretrial Practices will release its findings and recommendations. CCBF and our partners in the Coalition to End Money Bond will spend this upcoming year ensuring that those recommendations lead to a dramatic reduction in the number of people incarcerated awaiting trial in Illinois.



A memorial for DeSean Pittman, killed by Chicago Police in August 2015.

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