



FUND EXCLUDED WORKERS

2020

YEAR IN REVIEW



THE ORIGINS



COVID-19 devastated New York. As thousands of New Yorkers lost income and their jobs, far too many community members were excluded from state and federal survival support.

In response, the Fund Excluded Workers coalition was formed and a powerful campaign launched. Our goal: Expand unemployment benefits to ALL NEW YORKERS.

WHO ARE EXCLUDED WORKERS?

In 2020, the term "Excluded Workers" was coined in response to mass worker excluded from pandemic aid and unemployment assistance.



These are the most vulnerable workers, especially Black, brown, and immigrant workers in precarious low-wage industries who are excluded from regular unemployment insurance, primarily because of their immigration status or because of the kind of work they do.

TIMELINE



MAY & JUNE 2020

As the pandemic began, the organizing did not stop:

- Town Halls were organized from Hudson Valley to Long Island.
- [First report released](#) demonstrating the severity facing communities during COVID-19.
- Three car caravans and banner drops organized demanding to [#FundExcludedWorkers](#) and to [#MakeBillionairesPay](#)
- [First video series](#) released featuring Rep. AOC.

JULY 2020

- 100 excluded workers hold a 24 hour fast and sleep-out outside of Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos' Manhattan home demanding to [#MakeBillionairesPay](#) for the social safety net.
- Testimonial Video Series released, where excluded workers who depended on pantry lines shared the realities of safety net exclusions.



TIMELINE



AUGUST 2020

- 150 days after the pandemic began, the report "[Unemployed and Excluded](#)" was released – demonstrating over 74% of those who lost work at the beginning of the pandemic were still unemployed with zero benefits.
- A major car caravan is organized. [See the Telemundo report.](#)
- Following the national press highlighting Governor Cuomo's willingness to cook for millionaires in the Hamptons – members with Desis Rising Up and Moving, New York Communities for Change, Make the Road, Adhikkar, Laundry Workers Center, and more brought an empty table and eviction notices to his door asking, "will you cook for us too?"



- Over 600 community members marched through Queens, the epicenter of the pandemic, to the home of Billionaire Lefrak.

TIMELINE



SEPTEMBER 2020

- Jews for Racial and Economic Justice held a Jewish Town Hall for statewide elected officials to bring them further into the fight. New York Communities for Change held a “ They Get Rich, We Die” protest outside the home of multi-billionaires to highlight the urgency of the moment.
- Across the Mid-Hudson, Westchester and Long Island, this [Data for Progress poll](#) showed a whopping majority of voters want higher taxes on the rich for emergency relief.

OCTOBER 2020

- The FEW steering committee expanded geographic representation and statewide power with the addition of Worker Justice Center of New York, Columbia County Sanctuary Movement, Alianza Agricola, Long Island Jobs with Justice, Rural and Migrant Ministries, and more. Upstate agriculture, dairy, and service workers disproportionately affected by COVID and industry shutdowns joined demands for a Fund for Excluded Workers!



TIMELINE



NOVEMBER 2020

- On November 24th, Street Vendor Project, Make the Road, New York Communities for Change, American Indian Community House, Red de Pueblos Transnacionales, and Desis Rising Up and Moving held an action with over six different languages represented and formed a mass bread line outside of Governor Cuomo's office



- The Fiscal Policy Institute released [yet another report](#) demonstrating that undocumented immigrants were the hardest population hit by job loss and were ineligible to receive a single penny of state or federal support.

TIMELINE



DECEMBER 2020

- On Dec. 9th, over 100 excluded workers and allies rolled out a 700 foot, three-city-block-long scroll across Central Park demonstrating the massive gains of New York billionaires.
- We strengthened the ranks of our legislative circle of champions. On Dec. 10th, [dozens of state lawmakers committed](#) to increasing taxes on the rich.

