



ANNUAL REPORT 2014

Advancing Democracy

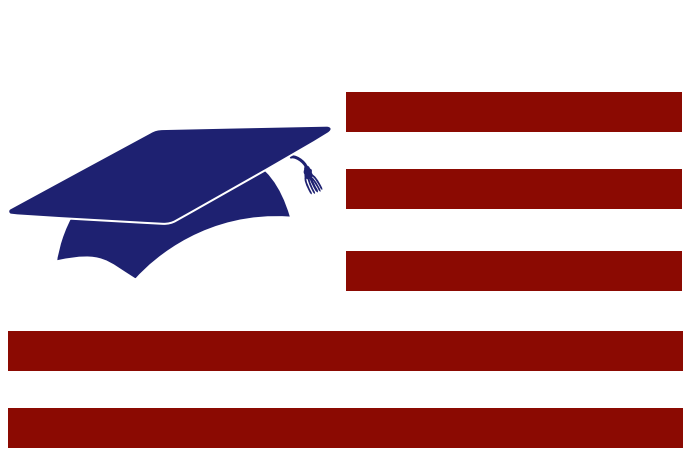
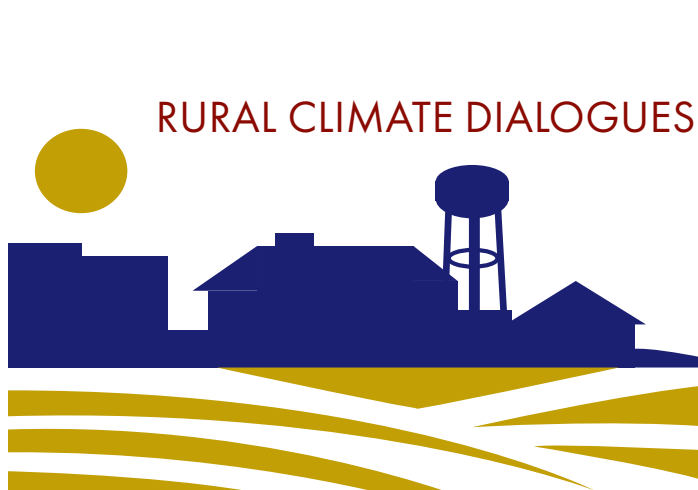
We know the most effective way to apply our innovative approach to civic engagement—putting citizens and communities back in the driver's seat of democracy—is to work with organizations whose reach, skill, and expertise complement ours. That's why we thoughtfully and consistently pursued collaborative programs with policy organizations, government agencies, academic researchers, and other engagement practitioners throughout the year.

2014 was all about partnerships.



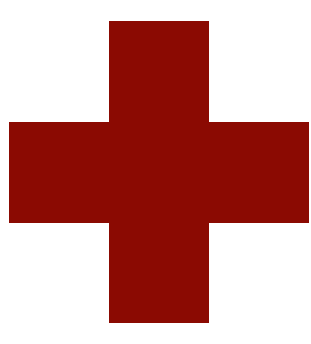
We kicked off 2014 by collaborating with **Healthy Democracy** to design and test a streamlined version of the award-winning *Citizens' Initiative Review* in preparation for its expansion beyond Oregon. This new format was used in Colorado, Arizona, and Oregon during the 2014 election.

In partnership with the **Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy**, we conducted the first *Rural Climate Dialogue* in Morris, Minnesota. Community members came together in June in a multi-day deliberative event to recommend action addressing climate change. Since then, Morris residents have organized a composting program, begun efforts to build a community solar installation, and are pursuing funding from foundations and state agencies to implement other recommendations.



In Fall, we began our Student Civic Leadership program with **Minneapolis Community & Technical College**. In collaboration with Professor Lena Jones, the Bipartisan Policy Center, and the Native American Community Development Institute, MCTC students developed and hosted Minnesota's only student-led candidate forum for a statewide office, hosting the Secretary of State candidates in early October.

We worked with staff and Museum Diversity Fellows at the **Minnesota Historical Society** to strengthen MHS's community engagement and public participation efforts. Our efforts culminated in the nation's first Department of Inclusion & Community Engagement at a state historical society.



With support from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, we're teaming up with researchers from the **Maxwell School at Syracuse University** and the **Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine** to enhance healthcare policy and decision-making through patient education and deliberation.

Strong Financial Footing

In addition to building new partnerships, we diversified our fund development efforts in 2014. We tapped into federal and private foundation grants, reached new individual donors, and expanded our earned income program.

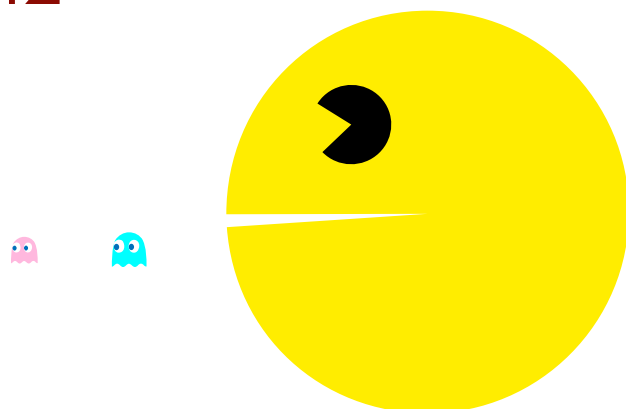
We're now in a position to double our program budget for 2015.

Income Breakdown

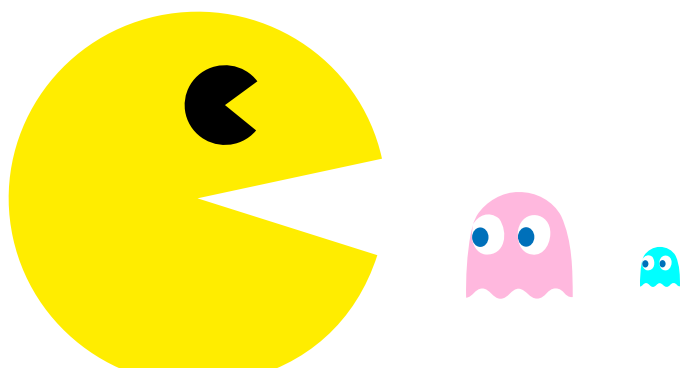
- Earned Income & Program Service Fees
- Individual Contributions
- Grants & In-Kind Contributions
- Founder Contributions in Yellow (as % of annual budget), includes family of founder

2012

- Founder Contributions = \$225,297
- Grants & In-Kind Contributions = \$1,000
- Individual Contributions = \$400
- Total Budget = \$226,697**



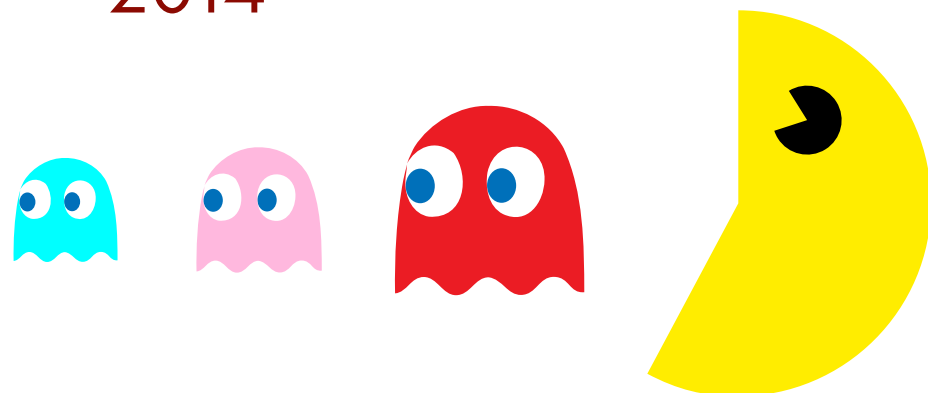
2013



- \$171,000 = Founder Contributions
- \$12,658 = Individual Contributions
- \$1,919 = Grants & In-Kind Contributions
- \$185,578 = Total Budget**

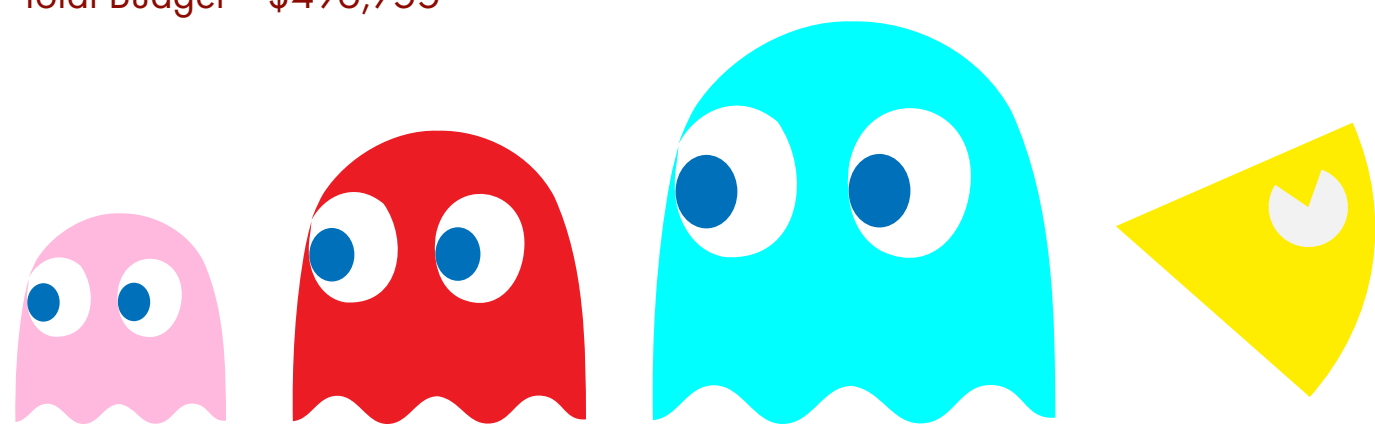
2014

- Founder Contributions = \$121,000
- Earned Income = \$50,512
- Individual Contributions = \$21,749
- Grants & In-Kind Contributions = \$14,650
- Total Budget = \$207,964**



2015 (Projected)

Total Budget = \$496,755



Individual Contributions = \$56,500

Earned Income = \$121,800**

Grants & In-Kind Contributions = \$228,455*

Founder Contributions = \$90,000*

*Already committed
**Partially committed

Individual Donors

2011

2012



2013



2014

We've increased the number of individual donors eightfold since 2011!

Thanks to you!

There's no way we would have had such an amazing 2014 without the passion and dedication of our donors, partners, participants, and supporters. Thank you for making a commitment to us and to a stronger democracy - a democracy that actively includes every American.