When the pandemic hit, everything changed - and America Walks had to change too. Not our mission. We remain dedicated to supporting local advocacy and being a voice for walkable, accessible inclusive communities.

But we had to change how we delivered on that mission. We finished one more localized National Walking Summit before lockdown then pivoted to delivering more online content than ever before. Our popular webinars took on the biggest issues - pandemic response, open streets, and mobility justice. We convened local advocacy organizations via Zoom to exchange best ideas between them. We expanded our mailing list, and our reach on social media.

We graduated another class of inspiring advocates from our Walking College, maintained our Technical Assistance (TA) programs, and expanded our Community Change Grants to local advocates.

We committed to making sure our work was infused with the goal of racial justice - ensuring representation on our webinar panels, Walking College fellowships, Community Change Grants and TA programs. And planned how to make all of our work more inclusive and equity-focused.

It’s what we believe in, but we were pushed by our staff, our board, and most of all the movement. It’s a work in progress, but we are dedicated to the journey.

2020 Community Change Grant Project - Walk Bike Cleveland's Walk to School Day
I remember how it felt when the magnitude of the pandemic hit. Followed shortly thereafter by the murder of George Floyd, and so many more Americans awaking to the trauma inflicted on our Black and Brown neighbors. How should we respond as individuals and as organizations?

Today feels more hopeful than those moments over a year ago - although we cannot deny how far we still must go. We are grateful at America Walks that we can lean on the work, and the local advocates we work with, to provide meaning in such times. Thank you.

We are all genuinely excited by the work ahead. In 2020 we launched a new partnership with AARP to hold State Walking Colleges in California, Georgia, and South Dakota. We won funding to double the number of Community Change Grants to go to grassroots advocates. And we laid the groundwork for our ongoing efforts to push the new administration in DC to put safety, equity and accessibility first in their policies and funding.

And in the middle of this America Walks got a new Executive Director! It is a testament to the foundation laid by Kate Kraft and all the staff, Board members and veteran volunteers that the work of America Walks did not flag. My entry into local streets advocacy was trying to get sidewalks in my neighborhood. I’m thrilled now to work with passionate individuals across the country focused on making their communities stronger. The change we want will take a movement, and every day we see it growing. With your help, we are going to be the best ally, partner and voice for a genuinely equitable and sustainable future that we can be.

Sincerely,
Mike McGinn, Executive Director

National Walking Summit - St. Louis, MO - Connecting Communities, Overcoming Barriers

DIGGING DEEPER THAN EVER BEFORE
Let's dive in...

Training and Technical Assistance

15 Webinars
16,392 Registrants

OVER 20,000 TOTAL INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED!

Our Social Network

Facebook: + 400 Followers
Twitter: + 900 Followers
Email: + 13,751 subscribers

Website visitors increased dramatically: 41.3%

"Absolutely fabulous presentation on the issues. We need more of this to raise awareness on this issue and make this a national conversation...well done." - webinar attendee

Community Change Grants

We received an astounding 563 applications

Awarded 13 total Grants
Funded projects in 11 different states
Progress continued

The Walking College
Graduated 24 fellows!

BIPOC Fellows represented half of the Walking College Class of 2020.

Active People Healthy Nation (APHN)
The CDC’s Active People Healthy Nation continued to help us collaboratively expand and diversify our programming and partnerships. APHN aims to help 27 million Americans become more physically active by 2027.

More 2020 Progress
The National Walking Summit in St. Louis featured localized and national model learning opportunities on a multitude of walking topics.

Inclusive Planning in Tribal Communities
With an expert advisor panel we created tools for inclusive planning in tribal communities featuring best practices to engage people with disabilities in designing safe and accessible transportation systems.
America Walks is incredibly grateful for each of its supporters and is honored to take part in this work together. As our network of supporters grows, so do the voices of those advocating for change in their communities. Every donation of time, money, or resources is invaluable to our efforts of empowering grassroots movements.

Thanks to Donors, Sponsors, Volunteers, and Allies of the Walking Movement