

Strengthening Local and Regional Labor Federations

Submitted by Denver Area Labor Federation

WHEREAS, the mission of the central labor councils (CLCs) and area labor federations is to help improve the conditions of employment for union members and help build a just society by organizing, political action and working with compatible community-based organizations; and

WHEREAS, unity at the local and national level is critical to the mission of the CLCs and area labor federations to fight back against the unprecedented attacks on working people; and

WHEREAS, it is well-resourced labor councils and area federations that have had the most success in the labor movement at building united coalitions to win for workers at a local level; and

WHEREAS, these coalitions fundamentally broaden the base of advocates fighting for change to include all union members, people of color, faith-based institutions, immigrant communities and social justice organizations and do so in a way unique to both the labor movement and the nation; and

WHEREAS, it is this strategy of inclusive coalition building that has shown the most promise in achieving the goal of building power to directly combat a new generation of international corporate monoliths and their political allies; and

WHEREAS, this success is nascent, growing and has the potential to achieve critical mass; and

WHEREAS, we support the affiliation of all unions with the AFL-CIO;

WHEREAS, the Executive Council has approved a national-level leadership development and technical assistance program to promote the growth of new leadership and to facilitate the newest, best strategies nationwide;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the delegates to the AFL-CIO Convention commit to building effective local labor councils, including a particular focus on building regional power centers by:

1. Developing peer-to-peer and technical assistance programs for small, medium and large CLCs on strategic campaigns;
2. Identifying strategic metropolitan areas in which to build leadership and expand mobilization capacity for political and organizing campaigns;
3. Developing a budget that directs resources to support and build sustainable CLC mobilization staff in these strategic areas; and
4. The Federation, through the Executive Council Political Committee, Committee on State and Local Strategies, and State Federation and CLC Advisory Committees, shall determine and implement a funding and mobilization plan for those areas that make strategic sense. Such a plan shall bring national and affiliate resources together with local resources in order to build effective local organizations that can organize and mobilize union members to win power for working families in those communities, and advance the union movement's organizational and political agenda.