

emergeUSA

2013

ANNUAL REPORT





- 03 A Message from Our Co-Chairman
- 04 Our Impact: Quotes from Community Leaders
- 06 Board of Directors & Regional Staff
- 07 Our Organizational Structure
- 08 The Anti-Foreign Law: Our Fight in Florida
- 10 Emerging Leaders: Creating a Leadership Pipeline
- 12 Florida District Day: Discussing Our Issues
- 14 Emerging Issues: Educating Our Communities on Critical Issues
- 16 Sharing Ramadan: Sharing Our Faith & Values with Local Leaders
- 18 Financial Report: Resource Mobilization

“Unto every one of you have We appointed a [different] law and way of life. And if God has so willed, He could surely have made you all one single community; but [he willed it otherwise] in order to test you by means of what he has vouchsafed unto you. Vie, then, with one another in doing good works! Unto God you must all return; and then He will make you truly understand all that on which you were wont to differ.”

—Holy Quran, Surah 5, Verse 48.

The Muslim community is the most civically engaged community in America. You heard me. This community has over the past 50 years raised hundreds of millions of dollars; built buildings; created schools; established free medical clinics, homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters, and organizations for disaster relief abroad and at home; and numerous other efforts to help grow and sustain the world around us. However, we have limited ourselves because our efforts have mostly focused on the Muslim community. While this was necessary in the past to build a strong infrastructure for the Muslim community in America, it has created a barrier limiting engagement beyond the Muslim American community. Through the work of Emerge USA we are focusing on changing this by creating our next generation of leaders that will work seamlessly without such barriers.

With an increase in voter turnout from approximately 40% in 2006 to over 90% in 2012 we accomplished one of our major goals when starting Emerge USA. We created a cultural shift in the attitude of our communities towards civic engagement. People were no longer asking “why should I vote?” but asked “who should I vote for?” Even with this monumental change in community perceptions voting still must be seen as only the very basic form of civic participation. We need to consistently engage our elected officials as public servants, not just names on a ballot. To accomplish this we created District Day, a program that enables us to seek out our public officials on key issues and build meaningful relationships.

This past year Emerge USA spent a substantial amount of time preparing for what lies ahead. In order to achieve the goals set out for the Muslim American community over the next several years we worked to expand the board of directors, improve internal governance procedures and financial transparency, created an Advisory Board in each region of we operate, and began laying the foundations for chapter expansion into other states.

In 2014 we will be conducting programming or establishing chapters in Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and New York. In addition to the current presence in Florida and



A Message from Our Co-Chairman Khurrum Wahid

Texas this expansion is part of a swing state strategy in advance of the 2016 Presidential elections. We are also focusing our leadership development program, Emerging Leaders, to create the next level of leadership in our mosque and community center institutions.

Our communities have the opportunity to impact policy and the image of Muslim Americans. We build our own value as we work to increase voter registration, participate in absentee ballot voting, participate in our Muslim Early Vote Day, and of course participate in District Day to build strong relationships with our elected officials. We are also continuing to support the efforts of Muslim Americans running for office throughout the country.

Emerge USA is your organization. It is your vehicle to be a voice for change, an example for your children, and beacon of hope for tomorrow. We must see the world not for what it may be today but what we want it to be, and then we must act.

Khurrum Wahid

Khurrum Wahid
Emerge USA Co-Chairman
Emerge USA Florida Chairman

Our Impact

Quotes from Community Leaders



"Emerge USA has taken on the important task of ensuring that the diverse communities that make up our state have a voice in the political process."

Congressman Joe Garcia - (D-FL)



"Emerge USA has a powerful model on how to engage the Muslim, South Asian and Arab American communities into the political process."

Congressman Andre Carson - (D-IN)



"Emerge USA provides important training to help local constituents engage in the political process and make their voices heard."

Florida State Senator David Simmons - (R-10)



"Emerge USA is building the next generation of Florida's leadership through education, advocacy, and mentorship."

Florida State Senator Eleanor Sobel - (D-13)

Our nation's leaders recognize the impact of Emerge USA's work on our country. Below are only a few testimonials.



"Our State's diversity is one of its greatest strengths and Emerge USA plays a critical role in engaging underrepresented communities in civic institutions."

Florida State Senator Anitere Flores - (R-37)



"The State of Florida is well served by the work of Emerge USA, which continues to engage its members in the political process so that their voices can be heard."

Florida State Representative Joe Saunders - (D-49)



"The Emerging Leaders program is an outstanding model of how the importance of civics can be instilled in our youth from a young age and how future leaders should be trained and mentored in communities across Florida."

Florida State Representative Janet Cruz - (D-62)



"I am pleased to work in coalition with Emerge USA as we strive together to ensure that the under-represented communities enjoy the rights, privileges and opportunities afforded to all Americans. I value our partnership and look forward to continued positive outcomes in 2014."

Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel

Board of Directors and Regional Staff

Khurram Wahid
Co-Chairman
Florida Chairman

A.J. Durrani
Co-Chairman
Texas Chairman

Amira Ishoof
Secretary

Amin Mitha
Treasurer

Imran Siddiqui
Board Member

Shaista Usmani, M.D.
Board Member

Shahid Usmani, M.D.
Board Member

Doured Daghistani, M.D.
Board Member

Nidal Hozien
Board Member

Laila Abdelaziz
Tampa Bay
Regional Director

Rummi Khan
South Florida
Regional Director

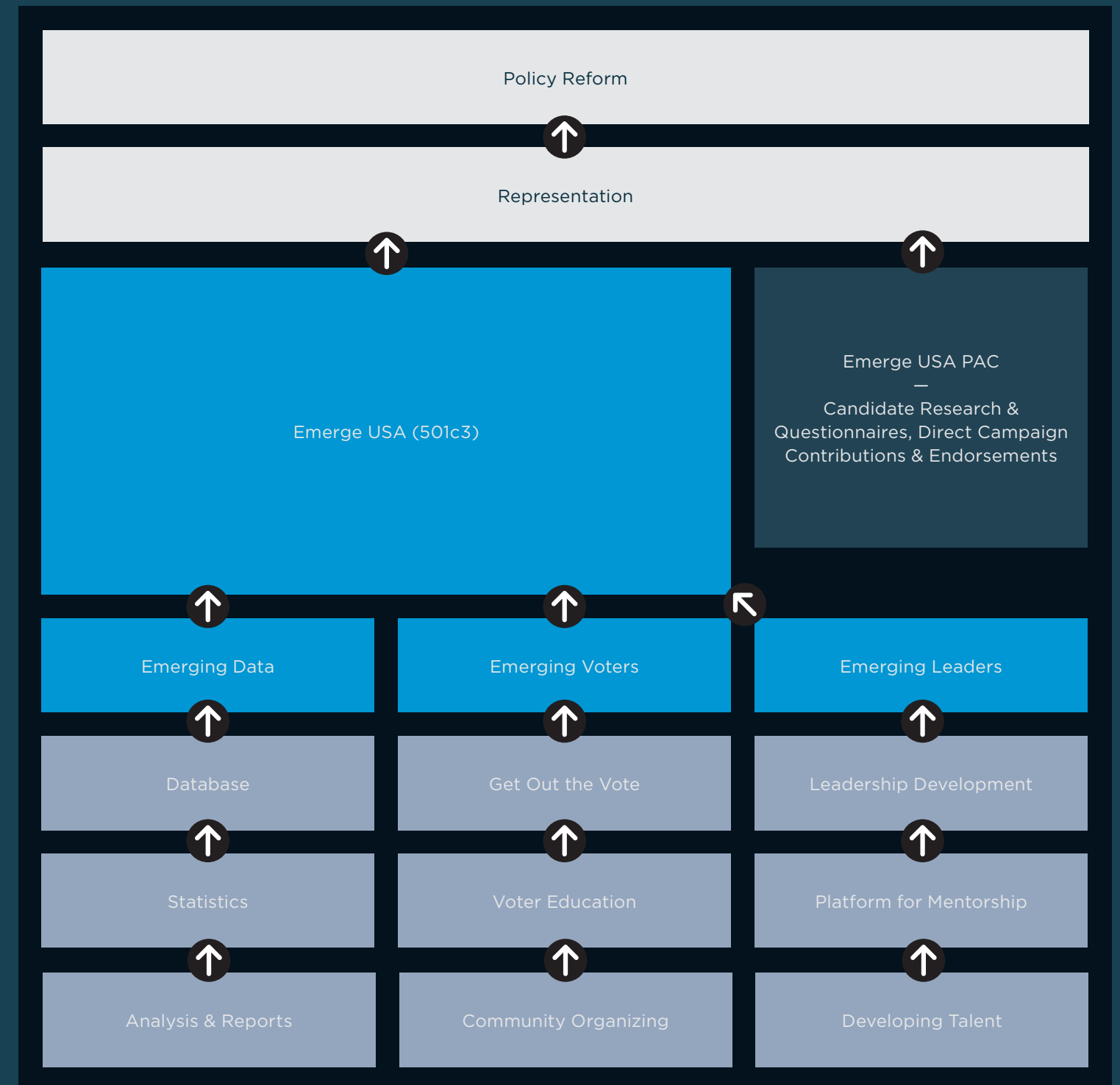
Ali Kurnaz
Central Florida
Regional Director

Nabila Mansoor
Houston
Regional Director

Feras Ahmed
Emerge USA Fellow

Emerge USA Our Organizational Structure

This flow chart shows how Emerge USA's programs lead to tangible change in the community.



The Anti-Foreign Law Our Fight in Florida



Left:
Tampa Bay Regional Director
Laila Abdelaziz speaks
about the anti-foreign law
bill on Tampa public radio.

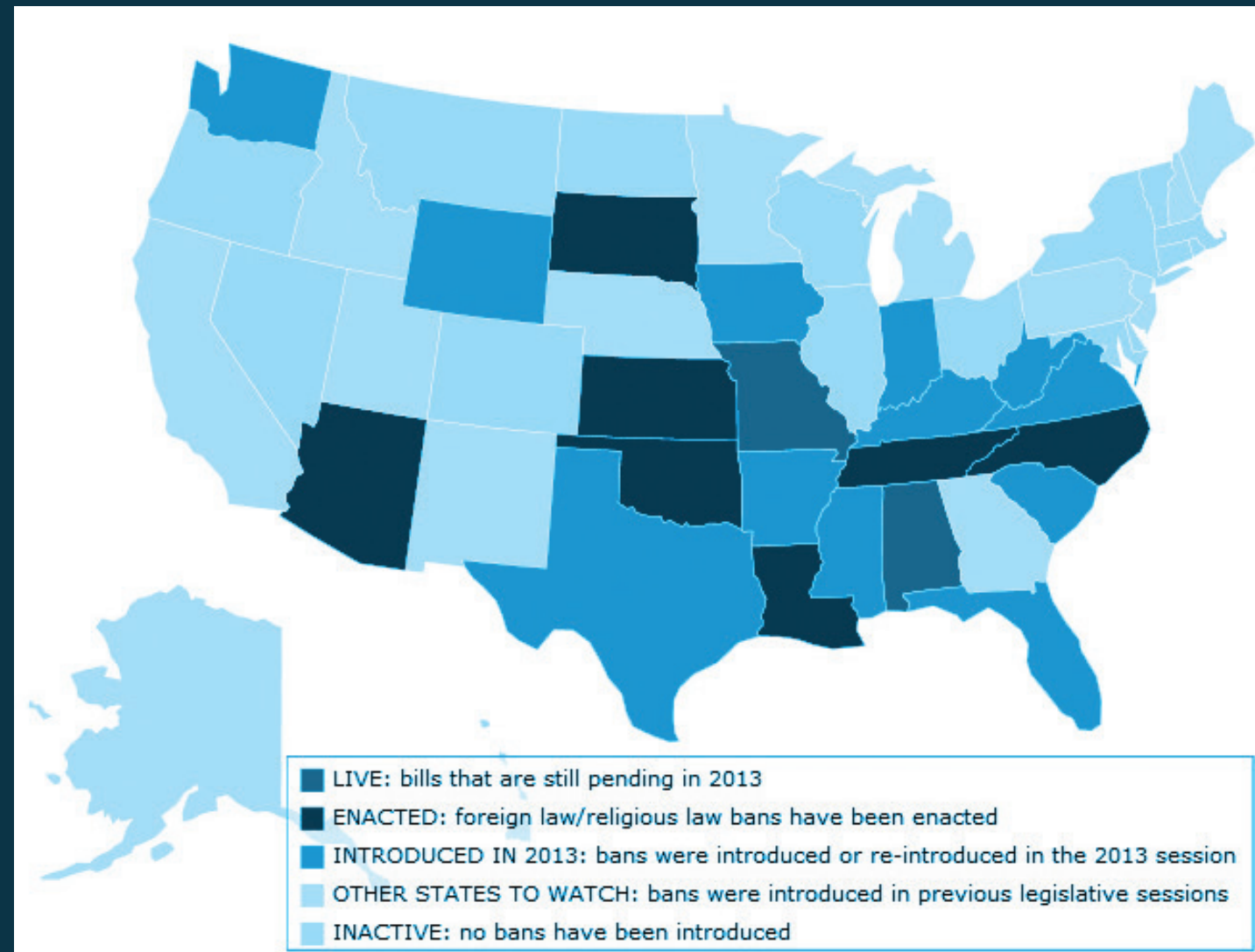
Right:
State by state map of foreign
law bans, via Brennan
Center for Justice.

Emerge USA lead the fight against Senate Bill 58 (the anti-Shariah law bill) during the 2013 legislative session. We lead a diverse coalition of organizations including the Florida Bar, the ACLU and the Anti-Defamation League and was the only Muslim organization to testify in front of multiple committees in both houses of the state legislature. Through our advocacy efforts, on

May 3 our allies in the Senate used a rare procedural block that prevented this bill from passing. Emerge educated our elected officials on the negative implications of this bill through publishing editorials, mobilizing community members to call their representatives asking them to vote no, and advocating daily in Tallahassee behind the scenes to line up votes against the bill.

“ Our groups collectively oppose this bill for many reasons and specifically being that this bill is unconstitutional, is unnecessary in that it is a solution without a problem, and is inspired by an anti-Muslim undertone. —Emerge USA’s Testimony to Florida Senate Government Oversight & Accountability Committee ”

“ Time and time again, this bill shows that it does go against the principles of being American. —Saif Hamideh, Testimony to Florida Senate Government Oversight & Accountability Committee ”





Emerging Leaders directly pairs with the next generation with leaders around the state, preparing them with the tools to directly take on the challenges that face our communities.

—Alan Brock, Wakulla County Commissioner



Emerging Leaders

Creating a Leadership Pipeline

Since the program's inception, 60% of Emerging Leaders graduates have gone on to work on campaigns, intern in the offices of local elected officials and members of Congress, and start their own non-profits. In 2013, Emerge USA graduated our second class of Emerging Leaders and successfully recruited our current class of young professionals from across the state. Through this program, Emerge USA is creating a pipeline of our community's next generation of leaders.

Throughout the course of the six month program, Emerging Leaders explore themes of leadership, service, and engagement in Miami, Tampa, and Tallahassee. They are introduced to our state's movers and shakers who work with the participants to learn about problem solving, uniting with others, policy making and community organizing.

Emerging Leaders are the future of our community and nation, building bridges between communities and generations. We are honored to work directly with the talented and innovative young professionals from around the state.

The Emerging Leaders program gave me the opportunity to interact with leaders from across Florida who guided me towards my future career path and how I could serve my community.

—Sami Tabbaa, Mercer University School of Law, Class of 2016



Florida District Day Discussing Our Issues

“Your participation in the process significantly helped to demonstrate the issues facing the citizens of Hillsborough County and I truly appreciate you taking the time out of your busy schedule to attend... thank you for taking an active part in your community and government.”

—Florida Senator John Legg, District 17

In an effort to empower the community to create long term relationships with their Elected officials, Emerge USA was proud to have created a platform for members of the community to engage Florida Legislature in their home districts.

Members of our community across the state organized for Florida District Day and met with their state legislators to share what matters to us most. Dozens of State Senators

Members of our community across the state organized for Florida District Day and met their state legislators.

and Representatives participated in our inaugural Florida District Day. These officials received information on our community, volume of registered muslim arab and south asian voters within their district as well as an invitation to visit their local religious and cultural centers.

District Day is a great way for the community to meet with their elected officials and talk about the issues that affect our daily lives.

—Suhail Nanji of Parkland, Florida



Far Left:
Sen. Gwen Margolis of
Miami-Dade County

Left:
Rep. Jeanette Nuñez of Miami

Bottom:
Rep. Joe Saunders of Orlando



100+
Meetings were held
with elected
officials in 2013

Emerging Issues

Educating Our Communities on Critical Issues

To educate our communities on the impact of the new health care law, Emerge USA held community town halls with health care experts around the State.

In 2010, President Barack Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the most significant regulatory overhaul of the U.S. health care system since 1965. This legislation intends to make health insurance coverage more affordable and accessible to all Americans as well as improving the quality and benefits of health insurance.

In October of 2013, the new health care marketplace open enrollment

period began and Emerge USA worked hard to make sure our community had all the resources they needed to understand the new law and how to complete the enrollment process.

We organized multiple town halls throughout Central Florida and offered our community opportunities to speak directly with health care experts. These town halls were exactly the kind of space our community needed to find answers

to a variety of questions such as who needs insurance, what are the consequences of being uninsured, and how insured consumers will be affected.

The deadline for signing up for health insurance is March 2014 and we look forward to continuing to provide the right resources to help narrow the education gap and better inform our community on the new health care law.

“

After attending Emerge USA's education town hall, I learned that I was eligible for affordable health insurance for the first time in my life.

—Rania Malik of Orlando, Florida

”



Our Health Care Town Halls

- Emerge USA hosted health care town hall meetings across Florida to educate our community about the new law.
- Health care industry experts facilitated the town halls.
- Hundreds of attendees learned about about how the new health care law affects them.
- Dozens signed up for new coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace.



Above:
Members of the Orlando Muslim community ask their health care questions to a panel of experts.

SHARING RAMADAN

Sharing Our Faith & Values
with Local Leaders

15+

Iftaars across
Florida with elected
officials in 2013



Tampa City Council — Tampa, FL



State Senator Darren Soto — Longwood, FL



Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel — Sunrise, FL



Palm Beach County Mayor
Steven Abrams — Boca Raton, FL



Congressman Joe Garcia — Miami, FL

Financial Report

Resource Mobilization

Emerge USA continues to be agile, efficient and prudent with our resources. Every year our board and volunteers donate over 4,000 hours of time to our cause. Additionally, several businesses who believe in our mission donate their time and space to EmERGE every year for office space, legal services, IT consulting and marketing consulting. In 2013 these services were valued at nearly \$50,000.



Emerge USA is a very efficiently run organization and with increased resources can change the national trajectory of MASA political engagement.

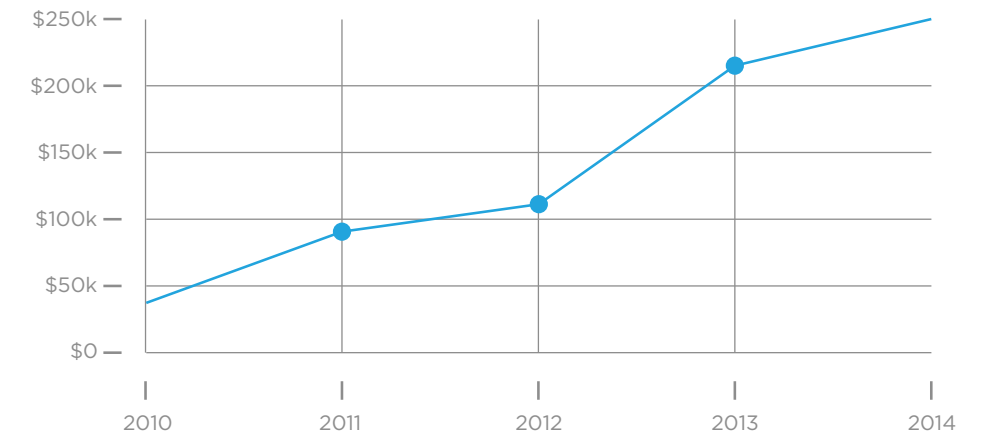
—Atif Fareed,
American Muslim
Community Centers



Funding

Emerge USA's funding has grown exponentially in our organization's short history, thanks to our generous supporters. We project that our funding will continue to grow. In order to continue to meet our community's ever-changing needs, EmERGE USA's 2014 fundraising goal is \$250,000.

In 2014 our fundraising goal is \$250,000. With these increased resources we will be able to hire a statewide Executive Director, send mailers and other communications to our constituents and begin to pay for some of the services that have been provided pro bono to us thus far.

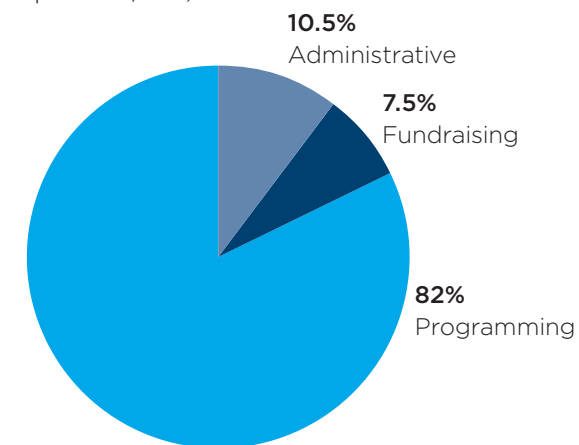


Endowment Fund & Challenge

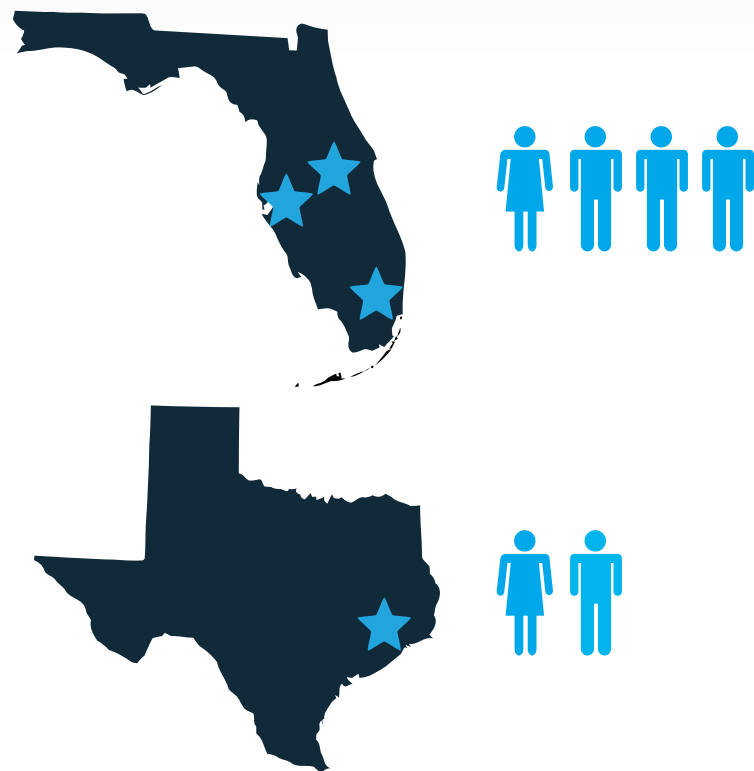
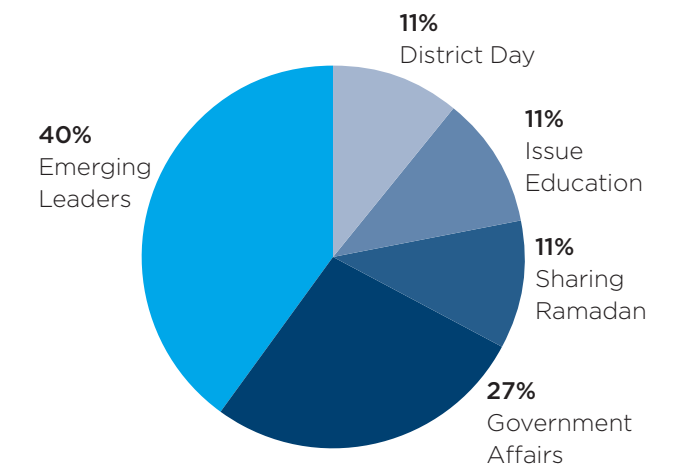
In 2013, EmERGE USA launched its endowment fund. This fund is supported by a challenge from a private donor who will match any gift to EmERGE USA up to \$500,000. The endowment fund and the challenge position EmERGE USA for long term growth and sustainability.

Expenditures

Total Expense: \$150,000



Programming Breakdown



Regional Offices Florida & Texas

Emerge USA has grown from opening its first office in 2010 to five offices today across Florida and Texas. These offices allow us to have a physical presence and be on the ground organizing our communities.

6

Total Number
of Field Staff

Annual Banquets South & Central Florida



Orange County Sheriff Jerry Demings, Congressman Keith Ellison, and Orange County Property Appraiser Rick Singh



Michigan State Rep. Rashida Tlaib



Congressman Keith Ellison

Your civic duty is an ideal of living your Islam in such a way that it doesn't not only benefit you, but it brings benefit to the society around you... Emerge USA's work is amazing, it's a great step in institutionalizing the future of the Muslim community in this country.

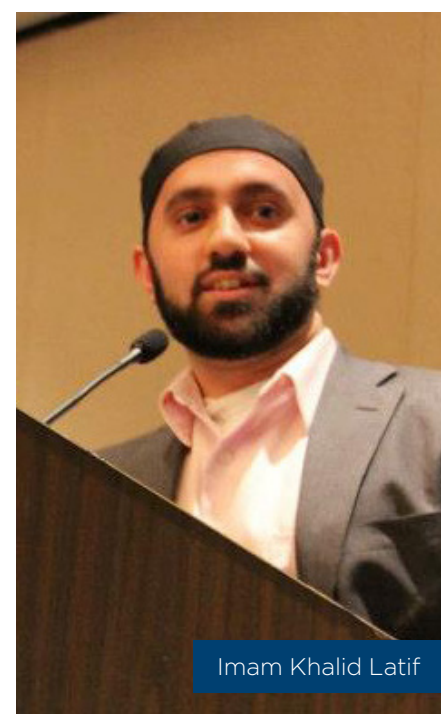
—Imam Khalid Latif



Congressman Patrick Murphy

I want to point out the Emerging Leaders Program participants and what you do, I think it's important that you continue to push and that more people from our generation and younger to get involved in their community.

—Congressman Patrick Murphy



Imam Khalid Latif



emergeUSA

STAY IN TOUCH

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