

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **2019**

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# From Our Leadership

Dear friends,

The Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, its Board of Directors, and staff are pleased to share our 2019 Annual Report with you. Last year was one of the busiest in our 20-year history, and we aren't slowing down. From the graduated rate income tax to pensions, education, and structural racism, CTBA's work uniquely ties fair and sustainable fiscal policy to the capacity of the public sector to provide core services that both meet demographically driven demand and create access to opportunity for all.

If you enjoy hearing about our 2019 accomplishments, please consider making a financial contribution to CTBA. Your support ensures CTBA can continue promoting equitable policies throughout Illinois, and across the nation.

Peace,

Ralph Martire  
Executive Director



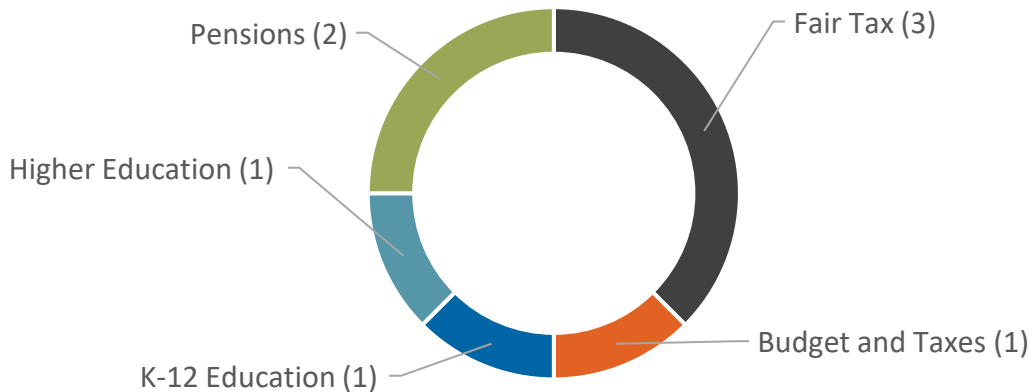
David May  
Chair of the Board of Directors



*The Center for Tax and Budget Accountability was formed in 2000 as a bipartisan, nonprofit research and advocacy think tank that works across ideological lines to identify evidence-based reforms that promote social and economic justice for everyone. Given how rancorous the current political environment is in our nation, the charge to design policy reform initiatives that are not only evidence-based but also bridge rather than reinforce ideological divides is more crucial than ever.*

# By the Numbers

## 2019 Reports



In 2019, CTBA produced 8 reports which demonstrate the integrated and strategic approach we take to create meaningful systems change. For example, CTBA’s report, [Impact of Illinois’ Structural Deficit](#), showed how flawed tax policy was the primary driver of both the state’s ongoing deficit problems and Illinois’ outsized pension debt—and how the irresponsibly backloaded plan for repaying that debt made matters worse. One reform needed to help redress both of those historic problems is amending the Illinois constitution to permit implementation of a graduated rate income tax, such as the *Fair Tax* proposal that passed the General Assembly last Spring, more on which can be found in CTBA’s report [How a Graduated Rate Income Tax would Reduce After-Tax Income Inequality in Illinois](#).

Taken together, CTBA’s reports illustrate how reducing the structural deficit through adoption of the Fair Tax and re-amortizing the state’s pension debt, helps create the capacity to fund K-12 education adequately—and invest appropriately in Higher Ed; and how making those educational investments is crucial to redressing structural racism.

In 2019 CTBA’s research team also made 12 substantive posts to the CTBA BudgetBlog, providing timely, user-friendly analysis of policy developments related to our work. These blogs allow our research team an opportunity to get useful info out on important topics between major reports.

To read our reports, please visit [CTBAonline.org](https://CTBAonline.org).

To read the BudgetBlog, please visit [BudgetBlog.CTBAonline.org](https://BudgetBlog.CTBAonline.org)

# 2019 Fiscal Symposium



CTBA's 2019 Fiscal Symposium, *Race, Politics, and Policy*, held Monday, October 21, 2019 was a huge success. In partnership with Roosevelt University, CTBA brought together a distinguished panel to provide their insights on the impact of racism in Illinois and the nation.

We are extremely grateful to our Moderator, Laura Washington, Chicago Sun-Times Columnist and ABC-7 Chicago Political Analyst; and our panelists, Illinois Representative Will Davis (IL-84), Illinois Representative Karina Villa (IL-49), Former Congressman Mike Honda (CA), and Congresswoman Robin Kelly (IL) for their keen insights and personal stories about this timely and crucial subject.

Working to identify and eliminate structural racism in major public systems has been a core focus of CTBA for over a decade.



From left to right: Congresswoman Robin Kelly, Representative Will Davis, Representative Karina Villa, and Former Congressman Mike Honda

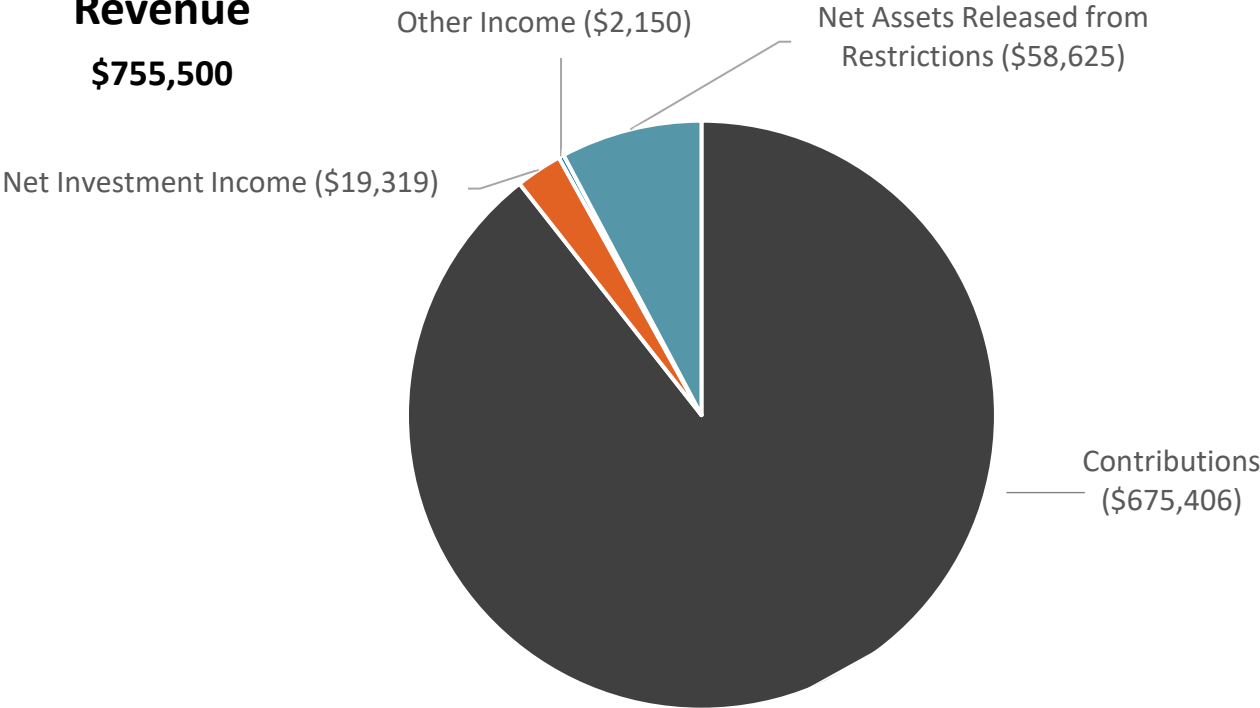


Bonnie Gunzenhauser, Roosevelt University Dean Arts and Sciences, Professor of English, and CTBA Board Member

# 2019 Financials

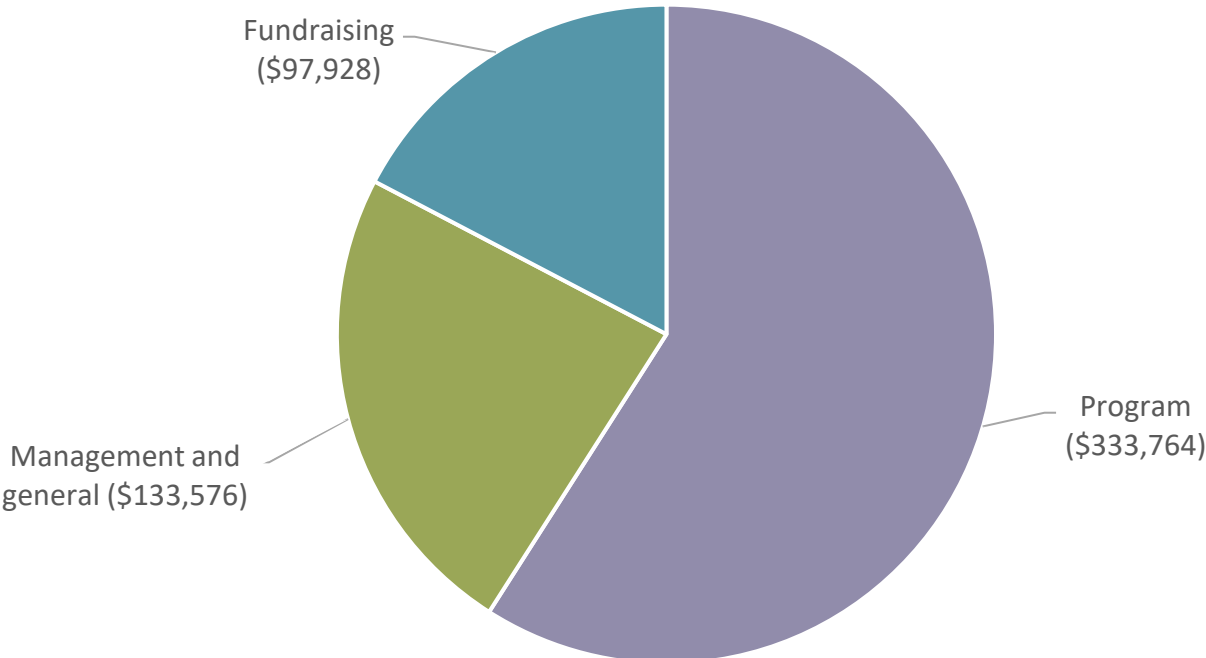
## Revenue

**\$755,500**



## Expenses

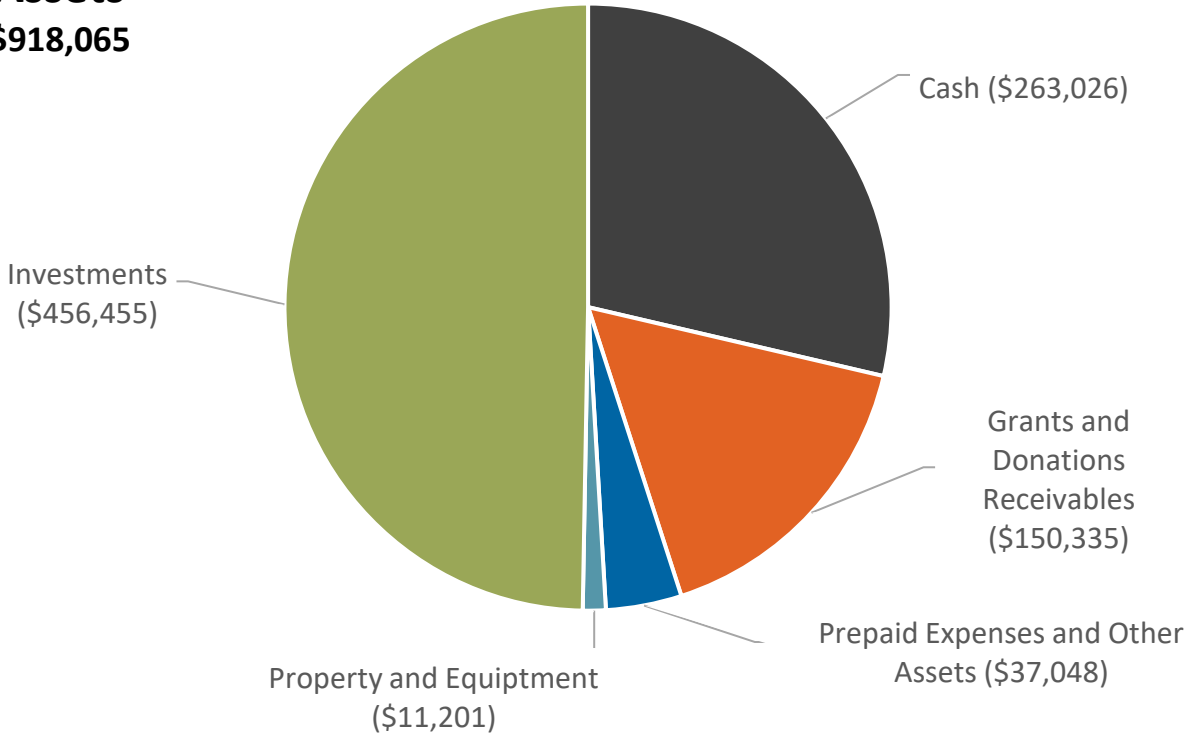
**\$565,268**



# 2019 Financials

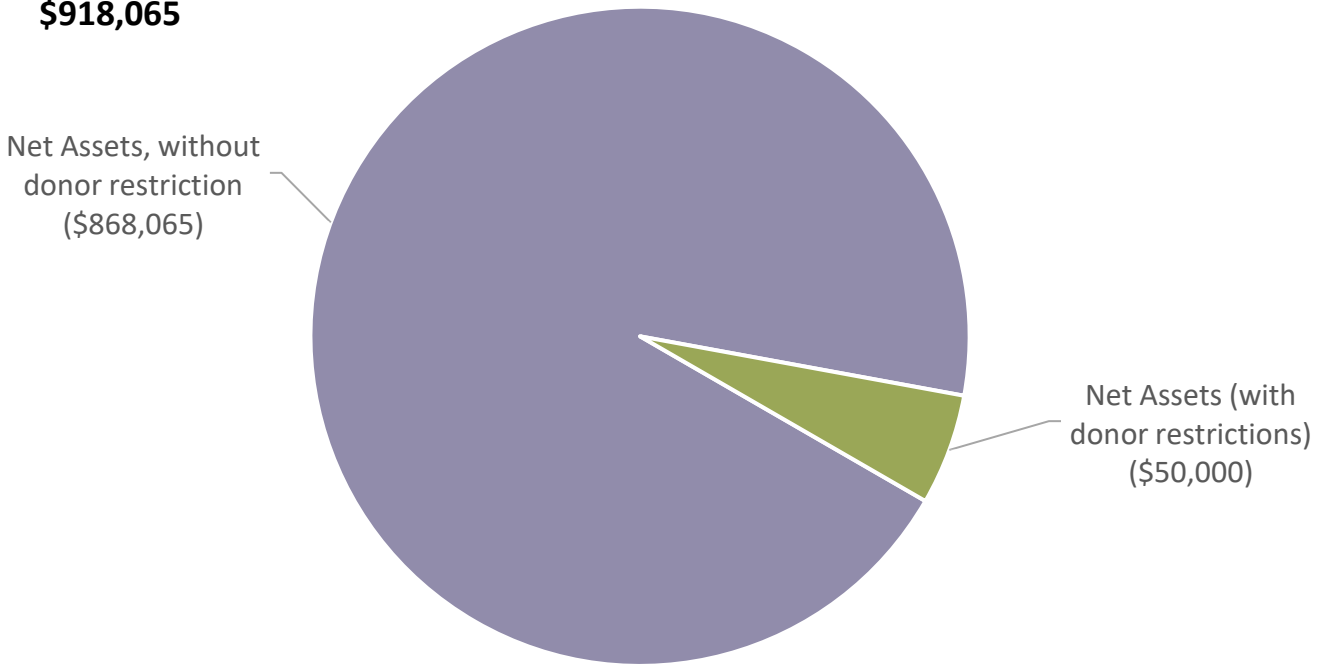
## Assets

\$918,065



## Liabilities

\$918,065



# Staff



**Ralph Martire**  
Executive Director



**Tracy Schonberger**  
Administrative Director



**Drazzel Feliu**  
Research Director



**Allison Flanagan**  
Research Associate



**Sydney Smith**  
Development Director



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## David May

Chair of the Board of Directors  
Chair of the Executive Committee

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Former Educator in the Chicago Public  
Schools

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Member of the Fiscal Symposium Host  
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## Jane Lehmann

Member of the Fiscal Symposium  
Host Committee  
Former Elgin Community College  
Professor

## Addison Woodward

Chair of the Governance Committee  
Former Chairperson of the Division of  
Psychology and Counseling at Governor's  
State University

\* Term ended in 2019

# 2019 Donors

CTBA is grateful to all its 2019 supporters, and their continuing dedication furthering equitable policies.

## Institutional Donors

### Government

City of Chicago Department of Finance

### Foundations

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Robert R. McCormick Foundation

Woods Fund

### Unions

Illinois Education Association

Illinois Federation of Teachers

AFSCME Council 31

### Organizations and Associations

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### \$10,000+

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Philip Milsk

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and to sign up for our newsletter.

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