EBASE is the only advocacy organization in the East Bay that unifies community, faith, and labor groups to stand with low-income workers and families.

We develop innovative policy solutions and partner with organizations across the country to advance a regional and national agenda for economically stable and healthy communities.

Since 1999, EBASE has improved the lives of over 20,000 people through:

- Winning eight living wage policies
- Securing safe and fair workplace conditions
- Connecting residents to family-sustaining jobs
Envisioning a People’s Port

Since our founding, EBASE has campaigned to make the Port of Oakland a port for the people — a place that is accountable to the community and creates quality jobs, clean air and real opportunities for local residents. Every day, millions of dollars worth of goods pass through the Port and are transported from ships to cranes to trucks and trains, often at the expense of workers and low-income communities of color. A people’s port would put people before profit and generate good jobs, advance environmental sustainability, and create healthier communities. EBASE convenes two campaigns to advance our vision of a people’s port.

What are “good jobs”? The Good Jobs Agreement, passed in June 2012, includes groundbreaking standards that will create construction career opportunities for Oakland residents, expand employment for people with criminal records, and provide a living wage for every job on the site. For the first time in Oakland, half the project’s operations jobs will be for local residents and for the first time in the nation, there will be restrictions on the use of temp agencies in warehouses to help prevent worker abuses that are common in warehouses today.

How will we make these “good jobs” real? This year, ground will break on the former Base and this long promised project will move from words on paper to jobs on the ground. To implement and enforce the agreement, we are rolling up our sleeves to help establish an effective West Oakland Job Resource Center to connect residents with services, training, and job opportunities. We are also supporting the creation of a Community Oversight Commission (with two seats for Revive Oakland) that will watchdog the project.

The good jobs agreement includes a projected 2,000 – 2,500 jobs to be created through the City’s Army Base project:

- 1,000 – 1,500 construction jobs over the next 7 years, starting in 2013
- 1,000 – 1,500 warehouse and operations jobs, starting in about 2017

EBASE anchors the 80-organization strong Oakland Coalition for Clean and Safe Ports (CCSP) to reduce air pollution and hold the Port of Oakland and the port trucking industry accountable to the community. This is part of a national campaign at four major seaports – Oakland, Los Angeles/Long Beach, Seattle/Tacoma and New York/New Jersey.

What was our biggest victory towards a people’s port? The brave men and women drivers at Toll Group in Los Angeles ratified the first union contract in the port trucking industry in 30 years! These workers now have fair wage increases, access to affordable health care and more. Oakland CCSP was proud to support their victory by educating consumers in the Bay Area and mobilizing our network to support their two-year struggle.

What’s next for CCSP? With solid research to ground our solutions to port-generated pollution and a robust coalition of environmental justice, community, labor and public health groups to advance clean air solutions, we are poised to help solve Oakland’s problems of truck activity in neighborhoods. And with alliances among worker rights advocates, we are supporting state and federal efforts to address the misclassification of port truck drivers as independent contractors.
Movement Building toward a Base of Power

Winning large-scale campaigns for change requires and results in strong movements for justice. Movement building is successful when alliances are formed across race, class and sectors to bring about bold solutions to systemic problems. EBASE is expanding the base of organized communities calling for change by not only supporting worker and resident organizing efforts but also by fostering electoral and interfaith organizing through two key collaborations.

How does ICWJ build power for immigrants and low-wage workers? Whether leading tours of the Oakland Army Base to educate clergy about responsible redevelopment, convening a network of Latino faith leaders to help support immigrant families facing the crisis of mass deportations, or calling on employers to be fair and just in providing good jobs with dignified wages—ICWJ nourishes the movement toward a just economy by building fellowship and solidarity among workers, clergy and lay leaders, and by calling all leaders to moral accountability.

What are ICWJ’s successes for 2012 and plans for 2013? ICWJ is honored to have supported Revive Oakland’s campaign to create a people’s port by educating and engaging over 1,000 congregants in the push for good jobs from the redevelopment of the Oakland Army Base. ICWJ will continue and expand its work to organize “Labor in the Pulpits” — a drive to lift up and honor workers’ voices during worship services in 20 congregations this year. And most significantly, as the nation looks to pass immigration reform, ICWJ will continue to walk alongside immigrant workers and their families seeking family unity, due process, and worker protections. Stay tuned for more information on how you can join ICWJ in solidarity with immigrants and low-wage workers.

EBASE is a founding member and core partner of Oakland Rising, a multilingual, multiracial collaborative that increases civic engagement in Oakland’s flatlands. By focusing on voter engagement and turnout in Oakland’s flatland precincts, EBASE and Oakland Rising are expanding and transforming the electorate to include working class families, people of color, young people, and immigrants.

How did EBASE help Californians win big at the ballot box last November? Together with Oakland Rising, EBASE helped to contact over 25,000 voters and increased voter turnout among traditionally unlikely voters by 13% in Alameda County. With the leadership of community members, workers, and young activists, EBASE filed 102 volunteer shifts in 2012 and helped pass Proposition 30, which brings billions of dollars to our schools and universities, and puts California one step closer to a fair and equitable tax structure. In the years to come, EBASE will continue to expand the electorate and push for more just systems of taxation and budgeting.

How is electoral organizing crucial to building power? In addition to weighing in on important statewide initiatives, voters can influence the decisions of local elected officials on important policies in our own backyard. By engaging the community through conversations on doorsteps and by phone, EBASE & Oakland Rising found that over 80% of Oakland voters support real job access opportunities from the redevelopment of the Oakland Army Base — a message that helped inform decision makers who ended up supporting the jobs agreement unanimously.

Take a look at our most recent brief – State of Work in the East Bay & Oakland – which reviews income inequality, poverty and low wage jobs.

Visit workingeastbay.org/SOWEBO
EBASE thanks the many ally organizations, donors, and volunteers that help workers and communities build power. 

For a complete list of all our 2012 donors, please see our online Impact Report available at workingeastbay.org/2012_ Impact