



Zakat Chicago

Local Collection. Local Distribution.

2021 Annual Report



Zakat Chicago - CIOGC

Chair

Qadri Abdallah

Committee Members

Mustaque Ali

Quadir H. Khan

Development Director

Aymen Abdel Halim

Treasurer

Maqsood Quadri

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Salman Mohiuddin

Office Manager

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Mohamad Chehade

Syed Najiullah

Molham Kattaieh

Maqsood Quadri

Ex-Officio

Mohammed Kaiseruddin

Irshad Khan

Sahira Sadiq

Programs Manager

Sana Rasheed

Vision

Our vision is centered around our guiding principle of “local collection, local distribution.” By focusing on the most immediate and pressing needs found in our great city and surrounding suburbs, Zakat Chicago is able to ensure that the funds collected have an immediate and noticeable impact on our community.

Zakat Chicago-CIOGC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and a committee of the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago (CIOGC).

Zakat Chicago - CIOGC, 231 S. State St., Suite 300, Chicago, Illinois 60604

Visit us online and donate at www.zakatchicago.com.

Mission

The primary mission of Zakat Chicago is to establish Zakat as a living institution in the Greater Chicago area. We endeavor to accomplish this mission by:

- Collecting Zakat annually
- Distributing Zakat locally to meet the community's Zakat-eligible needs
- Educating the community about Zakat, and
- Coordinating between Zakat-collecting and distributing organizations.

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2021 Zakat Chicago Impact Summary

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Asalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatu,

In 2021, your generous contributions helped Zakat Chicago alleviate multiple challenges in our community and improve the lives of thousands of individuals.

- Tens of thousands of needy families and individuals were able to access free and healthy food year-round through our partner food pantries across Chicagoland.
- We were able to provide full financial sponsorship to the newly established Rahmah-Zakat Chicago Halal Food Pantry in Niles, Illinois which supports hundreds of needy Muslim families in the surrounding area.
- 55 local Muslim leaders were certified in Mental Health First Aid which teaches community members how to give first aid to individuals experiencing a mental health crisis and/or who are in the early stages of a mental health disorder.
- 4,000 Winter Kits, which include brand new jackets, hats, socks, and gloves, were distributed to needy families and unsheltered individuals to provide life-changing warmth during Chicago's extremely cold winters.

Thank you and Jazakum Allahu Khairan for your kindness and generosity in 2021. We look forward to creating even more of a local impact with you in 2022, insha'Allah. Jazakum Allahu Khairan.

Sincerely,

Qadri Abdallah

Qadri Abdallah

Chair of Zakat Chicago

2021 Zakat Distribution

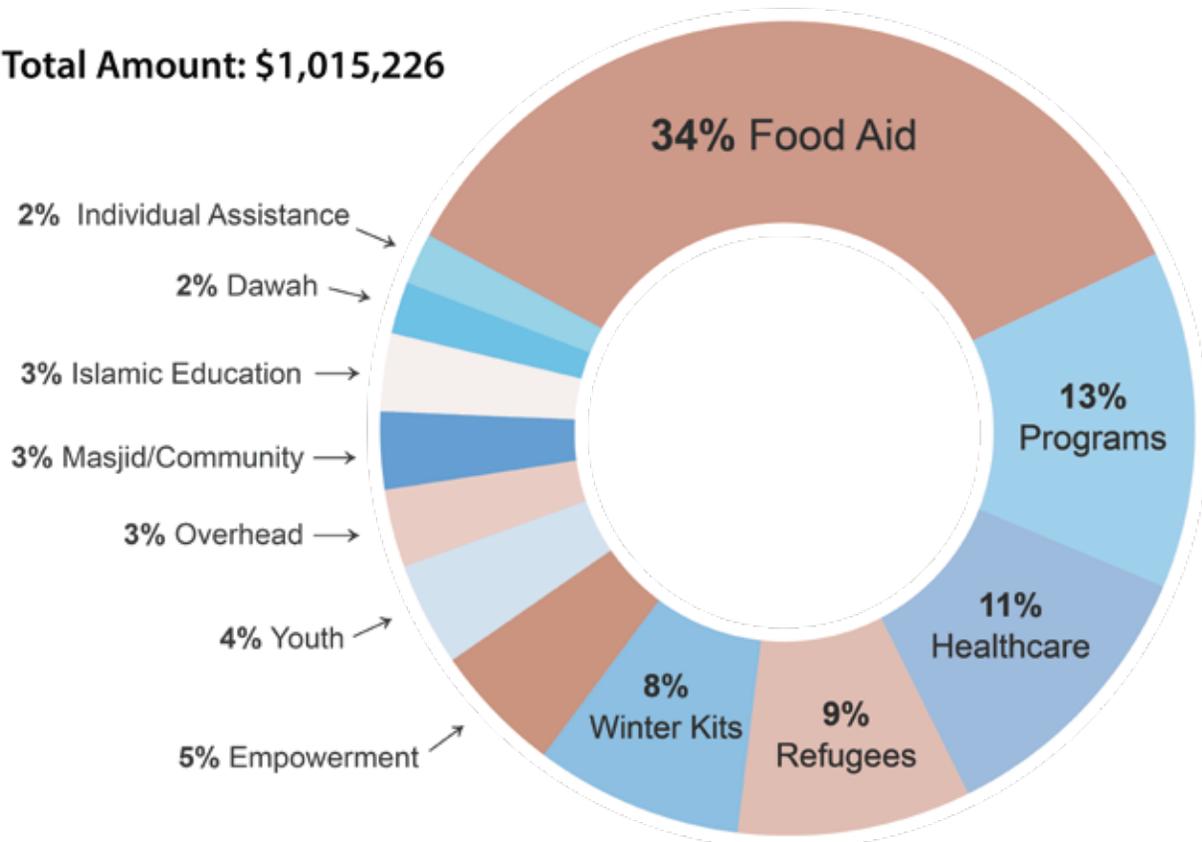
Your support has allowed us to provide a variety of services including food aid, healthcare, refugee assistance, Islamic education, and more, to thousands of people in our community. As you can imagine, the community's needs have continued to grow this year, mostly due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The poor and disadvantaged among us – the Zakat eligible ones - have felt the impact more than anyone else.

Zakat Chicago has amplified its efforts in 2021 to uplift our community. The important and essential uses of Zakat included in the diagram below.

Services & Programs

- Food Aid
- Programs
- Healthcare
- Refugee Assistance
- Winter Kits
- Empowerment
- Youth Programs
- Masjid Support
- Islamic Education
- Dawah
- Individual Assistance

Total Amount: \$1,015,226



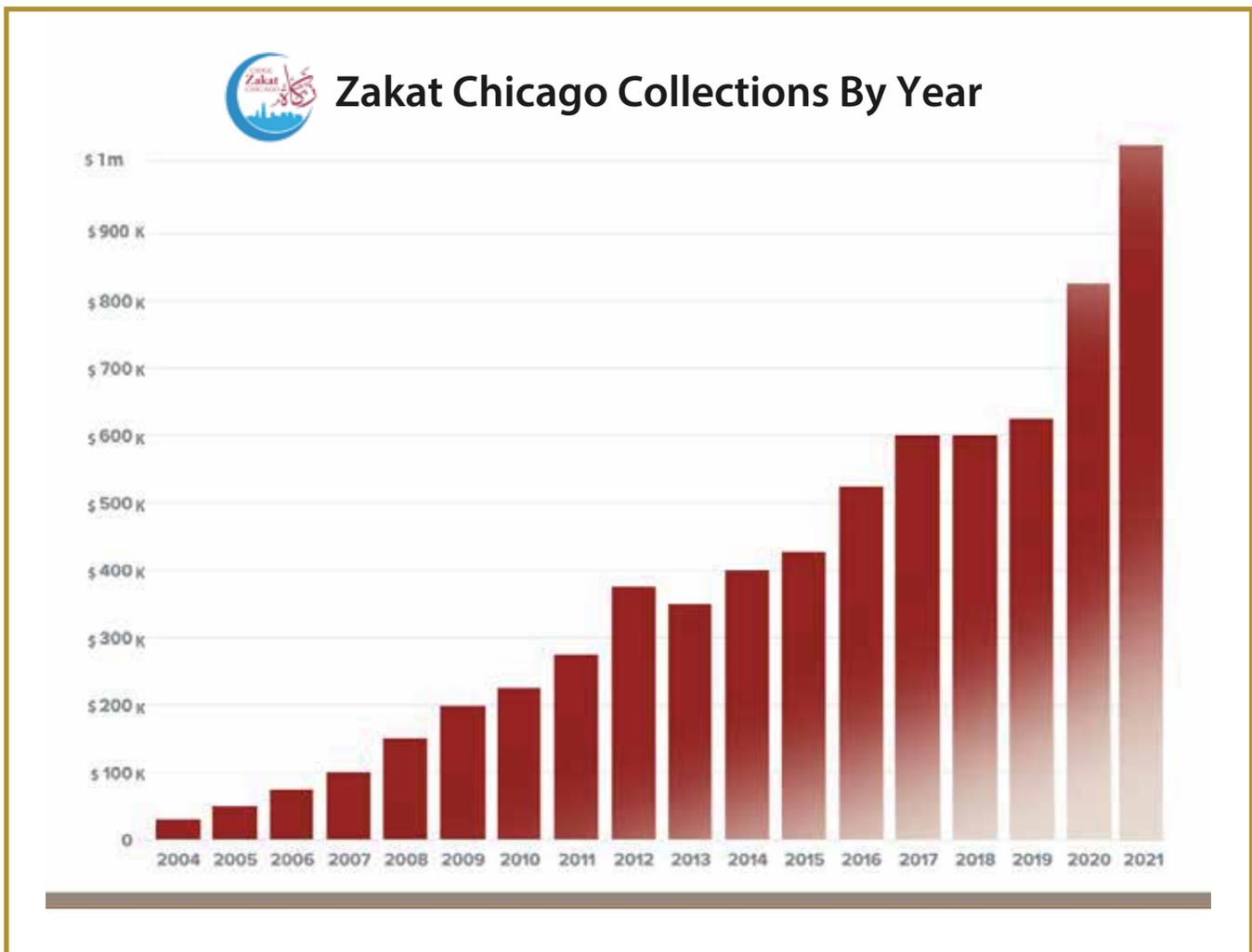
Zakat Chicago Collections By Year

Our Growth

Although Zakat Chicago's revenue has been growing steadily since 2004, in 2021 we saw a growth of 42.5%, alhamdulillah. This is a testimony to the generosity of the Muslim community, who despite the pandemic's effect on themselves saw the need of others as more important.

Our Efficiency

The efficiency of our operations is evident from the data that we were able to keep our overhead at only 3%.



According to one study from Feeding America, one in seven people in Cook County will experience food insecurity this year. The Covid-19 pandemic increased food insecurity in Chicago, so Zakat Chicago has boosted its support of **seven Muslim owned and operated food pantries** across Chicagoland with more than a third of our 2021 Zakat distribution.

In the past year, **tens of thousands of needy families and individuals** were able to access free and healthy food year-round through our partner food pantries across Chicagoland. Our key partner food pantries include SANAD Food Pantry in inner-city Chicago, Rahmah-Zakat Chicago Halal Food Pantry in Niles, and Al-Nahda Food Pantry in Worth. In 2021, we were also able to provide full financial sponsorship to the newly established Rahmah-Zakat Chicago Halal Food Pantry in Niles, Illinois which supports hundreds of needy Muslim families in the surrounding area.

While our partners distribute food throughout the year, the Zakat Chicago amplifies its food distribution efforts during the holy month of Ramadan. We work with our partners to provide boxes filled to the brim with Halal food products that families need to prepare nutritious Ramadan iftars and meals.



“The SANAD Food Pantry may not have survived without Zakat Chicago’s support. For coping with COVID-19 related needs, they supported us in doubling the days of food distribution.

- **Aber Abueid, Manager, SANAD Food Pantry**

Many members of our community are uninsured, and are unable to pay for the life-saving medical care and mental health support they need. Through Zakat Chicago, your support provides significant discounts to Chicagoans who need check-ups and counseling sessions.

Zakat Chicago supports American Muslim Health Professionals (AMHP) and The Khalil Center to provide healthcare, including mental health services and mental health first aid certification, for local Muslims in need. Alhamdulillah, in addition to regular services, **55 individuals were certified in Mental Health First Aid** through AMHP in 2021.



“The AMHP Mental Health First Aid training is a great tool to learn actionable steps that could potentially save someone’s life. I am grateful to have learned more about mental health and now feel better equipped if I were to find myself in a crisis situation.”

- **Binta Diallo**, Arts & Culture Manager,
Inner-City Muslim Action Network

"For many years, providing mental health services to Muslims that draws on the centuries-old tradition of healing in the Islamic tradition has faced a number of critical barriers. Through the partnership between the Khalil Center and Zakat Chicago, one of the most critical barriers - lack of affordability - has been removed for many. Thanks to this partnership, countless individuals have been able to begin the process of healing who would otherwise have been alone. Together, we are breaking these barriers down, building a movement of hearts to heal our community."

- **Dr. Hooman Keshavarzi**, Executive Director and Founder of The Khalil Center

WINTER KITS



Chicago winters are notoriously tough, with temperatures frequently reaching at or below 0 °F overnight. Our donors have helped Zakat Chicago distribute Winter Kits to support needy families and individuals in our community with the critical supplies needed to help keep them safe and warm during the long, cold winter nights.

Every year, Zakat Chicago provides thousands of Winter Kits to needy families and individuals across Chicagoland. In 2021, Zakat Chicago distributed **over 4,000 Winter Kits** through our partner masjid and food pantries located across Chicagoland.

Zakat Chicago Winter Kits include new jackets, hats, gloves, and socks. Zakat Chicago also provides Winter Kits to Chicago's homeless population.



“Zakat Chicago has stood firm in providing proper support for the most forgotten with quality food and basic survival necessities. Zakat Chicago appreciates and values our local community's needs and ensure donations are used for Chicagoland.”

- **Farhan Ahmed**, Founder of Chi-Care

REFUGEE ASSISTANCE



Zakat Chicago supports refugees with assistance and housing through our partners Muslim Women’s Resource Center, Viator House of Hospitality, and Bethany House of Hospitality.

“Bethany House of Hospitality is grateful for the support of Zakat Chicago for our Muslim women who are seeking asylum. Zakat Chicago not only offers economic support but also helps build connections by which your young women can deepen their sense of belonging to the community in Chicago.”

- **Kathlyn Mulcahy**, Executive Director of Bethany House of Hospitality

“Zakat Chicago helps make it possible for young men seeking asylum in the U.S. to have a safe home where - instead of waiting in jails - these gifts to our nation can work, go to school, practice their faith, serve the community, prepare their legal cases and follow their dreams.”

- **Fr. Corey Brost, C.S.V.**, Executive Director of Viator House of Hospitality



“I am so thankful and grateful to Zakat Chicago because they helped me pay for college and continue my education. I am also thankful to them because they helped me get braces and those braces helped me medically and helped me with my confidence. I will always be thankful to Zakat Chicago. Thank You.”

- **Nimra**, Bethany House of Hospitality

ZAKAT EDUCATION

Zakat Chicago is the only organization in Greater Chicago that pays significant attention “in service of Zakat” to (a) educating the community about Zakat and (b) coordinating between Zakat collecting and Zakat distributing organizations.

Zakat Chicago serves in more ways than other Zakat organizations. We conduct an expansive Zakat education program and active coordination between Zakat collecting and Zakat distributing organizations as well as local scholars. Zakat Chicago also offers articles, publications, videos, webinars, and FAQs available via the Zakat Chicago website at www.zakatchicago.com.

In 2021, Zakat Chicago compiled and widely distributed Zakat Basics publications as well as our first Annual Report detailing the impact of the organization. It provided information and guidance sufficient to a majority of Muslims to faithfully uphold their Zakat obligation. In the words and voices of five prominent Chicago-area imams and scholars, Zakat Chicago has produced professional quality short video clips on specific topics and widely distributed them. They can be viewed at youtube.com/zakatchicago.



Zakat Basics Webinar

Zakat Chicago has adopted new methods of Zakat education including webinars and virtual meetings. In March of 2021, Zakat Chicago held its first-ever webinar featuring local Islamic scholars.



TESTIMONIALS BY LOCAL SCHOLARS



Zakat Chicago supports Compassionate Care Network, American Muslim Health Professionals, and The Khalil Center to provide healthcare, including mental health services and mental health first aid certification, in an effort to help Muslims across Chicagoland.

Sheikh Rizwan Ali

Imam & Director of Religious Education, Islamic Center of Naperville



Zakat Chicago supports Compassionate Care Network, American Muslim Health Professionals, and The Khalil Center to provide healthcare, including mental health services and mental health first aid certification, in an effort to help Muslims across Chicagoland.

Sh. Hassan Aly, ThM, Imam & Religious Director, The Mecca Center



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Sheikh Kifah Mustapha, Imam & Director, The Prayer Center of Orland Park



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Inamul Haq, Professor of Islamic Studies, Elmhurst University



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Ustadh Ubaydullah Evans, Scholar in Residence, ALIM
(American Learning Institute for Muslims)



Partner With Zakat Chicago In Your Zakat Giving

Your Part: Be Ready to Give Zakat

- Assess your wealth
 - In bank/savings accounts
 - In stocks
 - Rental property income
 - Trade inventory in business
 - Short term debt
 - Long term debt
- Compare with Nisab (~\$5,400)
- Calculate your Zakat due
- Be ready to give



Information and help for the above steps is available at:
www.zakatchicago.com or e-mail admin@zakatchicago.com

Zakat Chicago's Part: Distributing Zakat

Zakat Chicago provides the services to distribute the Zakat:

- Follow the rules of Quran and Sunnah
 - Distribute within the eight categories [9:60]
 - Collect and Distribute locally
- Be efficient and keep overhead low
- Provide due diligence to assure every dollar goes to the right cause

Zakat Chicago also serves to:

- Educate and motivate the community about Zakat
- Coordinates between Zakat organizations to enhance their efficiency