

# RELIEF FOR NOW. RESILIENCE FOR THE FUTURE.



### INTRODUCTION

#### **Dear Colleagues:**

2020 was a year unlike any other in living memory. The fourth consecutive year of intensifying policy attacks on immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, as well as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities. A global pandemic. A surge in hate crimes against Asian Americans. Tragic murders of unarmed Black Americans at the hands of law enforcement. A national reckoning with centuries of systemic racism. Wildfires, hurricanes, and floods. Deepening economic, racial, and social inequities. An endangered census and rampant voter suppression in the lead-up to the most important election in modern history. Rising authoritarianism and imminent threats to our democracy.

In the face of these extraordinary challenges, GCIR leaned into our <u>mission</u>, <u>vision</u>, <u>and</u> <u>values</u>, taking swift action to address community needs and support the immigrant justice movement.

From DACA to public charge to efforts to expand legal services capacity, we kept funders informed of the latest developments affecting immigrant communities. At our <u>2020</u> National Convening in Atlanta, Georgia, we uplifted intersectional models of service delivery, advocacy, and organizing, as well as groundbreaking efforts by immigrant, BIPOC, and LGBTQI leaders.

Time and again, GCIR rallied philanthropy to act with urgency, courage, conviction, and hope. We mobilized funders to <u>respond to the pandemic</u>, <u>protect the 2020 census</u>, and develop <u>post-election scenarios and strategies</u>. As our country reckoned with the legacies of racism, we shined a spotlight on <u>anti-Blackness in immigrant communities</u>, elevated the immigrant justice movement's efforts to <u>center racial justice</u>, and pushed for <u>inclusion of immigration</u> in philanthropic discussions on racism.

2020 marked GCIR's 30<sup>th</sup> year of galvanizing philanthropy to address urgent humanitarian needs, respond to injustices, and affirmatively advance immigrant rights and inclusion. It also marked a significant leadership transition, as GCIR's founding president, Daranee Petsod, stepped down from her post after leading the organization for 22 years.

As we look ahead, we are thrilled to have our new president Marissa Tirona at the helm. Under her visionary leadership, we will push philanthropic practice; provide a political home for GCIR members, funders, and allies; co-create platforms for funders and movement leaders; and facilitate strong public-private partnerships. We will build forward our critical role in the U.S. social justice ecosystem as a philanthropic mobilizing organization that moves money and power, and we look forward to engaging with you to build a society in which everyone thrives no matter where they were born.

In solidarity, The GCIR Team



Volunteers register Demand DC protesters to vote in Washington, D.C., near the National Museum of African American History and Culture. August 1, 2020. Photo: Alison C. Bailey / Shutterstock.com

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# 30 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE



#### **Our 30th Anniversary**

GCIR commemorated our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a **comprehensive timeline** highlighting immigrant and refugee policy developments, philanthropic responses, and our own organization's evolution from our founding in 1990 to our cutting-edge work in 2020. GCIR's priorities over these three decades reflected the volatile U.S. immigration policy environment—and the challenges and opportunities it presented for the immigrant justice movement. This timeline illustrates GCIR's long and consistent history of impact, leveraging hundreds of millions in philanthropic funding to address issues affecting immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers.



#### **Trusted Expertise in Volatile Times**

In the ongoing climate of volatility and uncertainty, funders continued to rely on GCIR'S expertise to inform their grantmaking across a wide spectrum of issues. GCIR produced timely webinar briefings and information resources, often in collaboration with regional and national philanthropy-supporting organizations.



Drawing on knowledge and insights from field organizations, we also created funding recommendations to inform grantmaking in the context of the <u>Supreme</u> <u>Court decision to preserve DACA</u> and to address the immediate needs of immigrants and refugees impacted by the <u>Covid-19 pandemic</u>. Our year-long research resulted in the report <u>Addressing Secondary Traumatic</u> <u>Stress</u> (left) to guide funder support of grantee wellness and sustainability amid an epidemic of extreme stress and burnout among providers, organizers, and advocates.



A long line of people wait outside a food pantry in Elmhurst, Queens. GCIR shined a spotlight on how the Covid-19 pandemic magnified the inequities that undocumented immigrants face. Concentrated in low-wage sectors hardest hit by the pandemic, immigrants who lost their jobs or saw reduced hours, particularly the undocumented, experienced extreme economic hardship. *Photo: Massimo Giachetti / istockphoto* 



Without adequate self-care and organizational support, secondary traumatic stress impacts not only the affected staff members, but also their clients, their families and friends, and their agencies.

—From Addressing Secondary Traumatic Stress



At a special anniversary event during GCIR's 2020 National Convening, participants gathered at the National Center for Civil and Human Rights, where speakers from philanthropy and the field celebrated GCIR's 30-year history, paid tribute to our outgoing president, Daranee Petsod, and looked ahead to our next chapter.

#### **GCIR's National Convening in Atlanta**

Headlining GCIR's 2020 National Convening, Stacey Abrams spoke to our theme of Courage, Vision, Action, uplifting the power of long-term multiracial organizing in fighting to ensure an accurate census count, fair elections, and a vibrant democracy. Georgia-based activists shed light on the challenges facing immigrants in the state as well as the advocacy and organizing work being done to effect systemic change. GCIR's two-page infographic, Georgia: Newcomers and Neighbors, offered insights on the profile of immigrants in this changing Southern state. Convening speakers also included movement leaders from other parts of the South and other geographic regions, as well as those working at the national level. Throughout the two-and-a-half-day event, they uplifted the intersections between immigration, voter suppression, racism, movement building, and other equity and justice issues.

#### **GCIR's Longstanding Funder Networks**

GCIR continued to convene our longstanding California Immigrant Integration Initiative (CIII) and Delivering on the Dream (DOTD) networks, which together reached more than 320 funders in 21 states. In addition to creating opportunities for peer learning and coordination, GCIR facilitated scenario planning with these networks to assess future threats and opportunities for immigrant communities; prepare and strategize for various possible 2020 election outcomes; and think through how best to support grantee organizations. We also released *Immigration Legal Services in California*: A *Time for Bold Action*, which assesses legal services capacity in the state and offers recommendations for strategic philanthropic investment.





Coalitions can happen when we reach out beyond who we think we are, and we are willing to reach out to who we want to become.

—Stacey Abrams, GCIR 2020 National Convening



### California Immigrant Resilience Fund

Supporting our immigrant neighbors

#### **A Lifeline for Our Immigrant Neighbors**

In April 2020, faced with an unprecedented public health and economic crisis, GCIR redoubled our commitment to our vision of a just and equitable society in which everyone thrives, no matter where they were born. Guided by this vision, GCIR set out to engage philanthropy in addressing the profound structural inequities magnified by the pandemic and its disproportionate impact on people of color, women, and other marginalized communities.

Within weeks of the Covid-19 public health crisis being declared a pandemic, GCIR launched the California Immigrant Resilience Fund (CIRF) to provide emergency relief to undocumented immigrants who were experiencing extreme economic hardship as a result of the pandemic but who were ineligible for federal relief and unemployment insurance. Within months, we raised over \$50 million from over 70 institutional funders, nearly 40 major donors, and more than 800 individual online donors. Ultimately, we worked with 61 local partner organizations to provide one-time emergency cash assistance to more than 80,000 households across the state.

As a national organization, GCIR seeks to undertake bodies of work that have a reverberating impact. Created as a public-private partnership with the State of California, the first of its kind in the nation, CIRF sparked great interest in other states and localities. Our team provided consultation to stakeholders across the country and contributed to the establishment of similar funds in Colorado, Illinois, New Jersey, Oregon, and Washington.

May 13 2020 Dear Allience Sun Diego I wanted to thank you

for the check of soodis You sent to our home. due to covid-19 we were desperate for not knowing Now rent would be paid

by receiving this funds my lam/y can have engely to eat and prevent from

becoming homeless Thanks to Patricia that She went out of her way

to make sure, the money was hard it out.

While emergency cash assistance was and continues to be—a lifeline to many undocumented workers and families, GCIR intended for CIRF to be a starting point. As such, we worked in alignment with movement organizations and engaged funders to push for longer-term solutions, including expanded state safety-net programs. We are heartened to report that the State of California expanded its Earned Income Tax Credit program to include undocumented tax filers and also created the Golden State Stimulus to support this and other low-income populations.

Below: Recipients of emergency cash assistance. With the launch of the California Immigrant Resilience Fund, GCIR extended a lifeline to undocumented workers and families during the pandemic, partnering with 61 local organizations to provide over \$50 million in emergency cash assistance to more than 80.000 households across California.











# Solidarity with Immigrants and Allies

Rallying philanthropy to defend and affirm equity and justice remained a central part of GCIR's strategy in 2020. We issued **statements** and calls to action on racial justice, the COVID-19 pandemic, the Supreme Court decision on DACA, and the 2020 Census.

#### **Leadership on Census 2020**

To ensure a fair and accurate census count in 2020, GCIR led the <u>California Census 2020</u>

<u>Statewide Funders' Initiative</u> and worked with national partners, including the Funders Census Initiative of the Funders' Committee for Civic



GCIR condemned racism and racial violence, standing in solidarity with the movement for Black lives as an ally in the fight for racial justice. *Photo: Damien Storan / Shutterstock* 

Participation and the Democracy Funders Collaborative Census Subgroup. Together, we pushed back against efforts to undermine the constitutional mandate to count every person who calls this country home, advocating to exclude the citizenship question and include undocumented immigrants. GCIR is also coordinating the evaluation for the California statewide effort to capture the lessons and outcomes for future census efforts.



Census drive in Harlem. GCIR continued to lead the California Census 2020 Statewide Funders' Initiative and mobilized support for on-the-ground efforts to achieve an accurate census count in the face of myriad policy and pandemic setbacks. Photo: lev radin / Shutterstock

If we don't have a census that tells the truth, the lie will last for a decade. And we won't only lose economic power; we will lose political power.

—Stacey Abrams, GCIR 2020 National Convening

### 2020 FUNDERS

**Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** 

Blue Shield of California Foundation

Carnegie Corporation of New York

Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund

Ford Foundation

Marin Community Foundation

**Open Society Foundations** 

**Robert Wood Johnson Foundation** 

San Francisco Foundation

Silicon Valley Community Foundation

The California Endowment

The California Wellness Foundation

The Global Whole Being Fund

The Grove Foundation

The J.M. Kaplan Fund

The James Irvine Foundation

The JPB Foundation

**Unbound Philanthropy** 

Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock

van Löben Sels/Rembe Rock Foundation

W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Weingart Foundation

Y&H Soda Foundation

**Zegar Family Foundation** 

**Zellerbach Family Foundation** 

Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy

Catalyst of San Diego & Imperial Counties

Center for Disaster Philanthropy

Children, Youth & Family Funders Roundtable

CS Fund and Warsh • Mott Legacy

Early Childhood Funders Collaborative

**Economic Opportunity Funders** 

**EITC Funders Network** 

Four Freedoms Fund

Funders' Committee for Civic Participation

Grantmakers in Health

Hispanics in Philanthropy

National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy (NCRP)

Philanthropy California

Philanthropy New York

Philanthropy Northwest

**RISE Together Fund** 

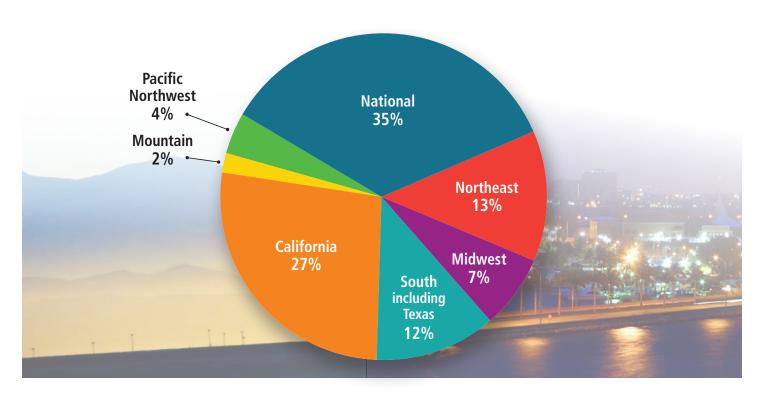
Southeastern Council of Foundations

Southern California Grantmakers

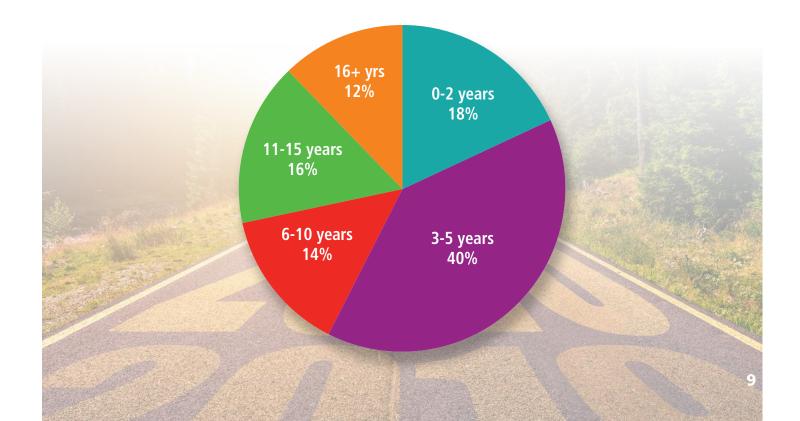
United Philanthropy Forum

**Workforce Matters** 

## Membership by Geographic Focus



### Years of Membership



#### Efrain Escobedo

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Vice President, Education, and Immigration California Community Foundation Los Angeles, CA

#### Shawn Morehead

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Vice President for Grants The New York Community Trust New York, NY

#### Luna Yasui

#### Secretary

Senior Program Officer,
Civic Engagement and Government
Ford Foundation
New York, NY

#### Dina Merrell

#### **Treasurer & Finance Committee Chair**

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Director of Programs Pillars Fund Chicago, IL

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#### Search Committee Co-chair

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#### Evan Bacalao

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#### **Amanda Cloud**

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#### **James Gore**

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#### **Angie Junck**

Director of Human Rights Program Heising-Simons Foundation San Francisco, CA

#### **Carlos Martinez**

Executive Director
Latino Community Foundation
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#### Laura Speer

Director, Strategy The Annie E. Casey Foundation Baltimore, MD

#### Vivian Tseng

Senior Vice President, Programs William T. Grant Foundation New York, NY

#### **Carolyn Wang Kong**

Chief Program Director Blue Shield of California Foundation San Francisco, CA



The GCIR team embodying our spirit animal superpowers at the 2020 National Convening.

#### **Caleb Beaudoin**

Membership and Knowledge Management Coordinator

#### **Kevin Douglas**

**Director of National Programs** 

#### Sara Feldman

Communications and Development Manager

#### **Harmony Karp Hayes**

Vice President of Operations

#### Aryah Somers Landsberger\* Vice President of Programs

Stephanie Martinez\*

#### California Programs Associate

California i Togranis Associate

### Melisa Montoya Operations Coordinator

#### Melissa Nop

Programs Associate

#### **Daranee Petsod\***

President (outgoing)

#### Marissa Tirona

President (incoming)

#### **Dianna Truong**

Director of Communications and Development

<sup>\*</sup>As of the date of this publication, these individuals have transitioned off of GCIR's staff.



# **Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees**

P.O. Box 2178
Petaluma, CA 94953
707-313-5367
www.gcir.org

Front cover photo credits: Census drive in Harlem. *Photo: lev radin / Shutterstock;* People wait outside a food pantry in Elmhurst, Queens. *Photo: Massimo Giachetti / istockphoto;* May Day march in Los Angeles. *Photo: anouchka / istockphoto.com;* Volunteers register Demand DC protesters to vote. *Photo: Alison C. Bailey / Shutterstock.com;* Black Lives Matter protest. *Photo: Damien Storan / Shutterstock.* Collage/graphic design: Axie Breen