



# GCIR 2010 Annual Report

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## Overview

2010 marked an exciting year for GCIR as we celebrated our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, held our national biennial convening in New York, and finalized our long-range strategic plan. Our efforts kept more than 500 funders informed of fast-moving policy developments and evolving community issues; highlighted the ongoing need to strengthen the immigrant integration infrastructure; and facilitated regional funder coordination and strategic partnerships to leverage the influence and impact of philanthropic leadership and investment. Indeed, our California Immigrant Integration Initiative helped raise and allocate nearly \$10 million to increase the participation of immigrants and other undercounted populations in the 2010 Census in the Golden State.

As part of our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration, we documented our history, impact, and the important role philanthropy plays in advancing immigrant rights and integration. We used the anniversary as an opportunity to call philanthropic attention to policy issues affecting immigrants and refugees, including the dramatic increase in state and local anti-immigrant laws and ordinances across the country and how they undermine social and economic integration.

Finally, we adopted a new strategic plan that builds on our core strengths, reflects critical community needs, and responds to our members' interests. Under this plan, GCIR will continue to ensure that our members—and the grantmaking community as a whole—have the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to build a strong case for supporting a wide range of immigrant- and refugee-related issues and programs within their foundations.

## 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration

As part of our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration, GCIR engaged our leadership and members in documenting our impact and reflecting on the progress made over the past two decades. This entailed:

- **Creating a five-minute commemoration video** that looks at the evolution and value of GCIR in advancing immigrant rights and integration through interviews with founders, longtime members, and newer GCIR leaders. The commemoration video and individual GCIR member video interviews are available online at GCIR's website ([www.gcir.org](http://www.gcir.org)).
- **Featuring commemoration activities at our 2010 national convening**, including a plenary entitled *GCIR at 20: Reflections on the Immigrant Rights and Immigrant Integration Fields*; a reception to honor GCIR's co-founders and pay tribute to colleagues for their work; and various

displays including the GCIR timeline, issue boards, and founder boards that were placed throughout the convening venue and 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary reception space.

- **Producing a series of Q & A interviews with GCIR leaders**, including GCIR founder Mary McClymont and longtime GCIR leader Taryn Higashi, which were distributed to more than 1,000 funders. Additional Q & As will be produced in the first quarter of 2011.
- **Documenting GCIR's history and impact** in a commemoration publication that will be released in spring 2011.

These commemoration activities have helped us realize that current controversies over immigrants and immigration are not dissimilar to the situation two decades ago. The difference, however, is that now we have a critical mass of foundations—and a strong GCIR network—committed to advancing immigrant rights and integration.

## National Convening

GCIR's 2010 National Convening, *Embracing the New America: Philanthropic Leadership for a Shared Prosperity*, took place in June 2010 and drew the participation of 116 grantmakers from 23 states, Washington D.C., Canada, and Ireland. The 2.5-day gathering covered a wide range of topics including:

- ✓ Federal and local policy issues around immigration reform
- ✓ Expanding citizenship and legal services capacity
- ✓ Increasing the quality and availability of ESL/VESL instruction
- ✓ Advancing economic justice for low-wage immigrant workers
- ✓ Supporting effective workforce development programs that help immigrants and refugees acquire English and the skills they need to move up the economic ladder
- ✓ Exploring the impact of enforcement programs on immigrant workers, families, and communities

In addition to the substantive content, the convening provided funders working on immigrant- and refugee-related issues with an opportunity to meet one another, network, discuss swiftly changing policies and politics, and strategize about how best to respond. As the only conference in the United States tailored to grantmakers working on immigrant and refugee issues, the convening remains a highly valued venue for both substantive knowledge and networking opportunities for GCIR members as well as other funders and stakeholders engaged in this area.

## Programming

GCIR's programs are critical to informing our members and the philanthropic community at large about the latest immigration-related policy developments, cutting-edge thinking, and best practices. In 2010, GCIR held a national convening, organized eight programs, and cosponsored another six programs that engaged over 500 local and national GCIR members, foundation staff, and trustees. These programmatic

offerings covered a wide range of topics, many of which were requested by our members. They included comprehensive immigration reform and related policy developments, economic integration of immigrants, English Language Learners, and public-private partnerships. The diversity of topics reflects both our member-driven approach and our desire to keep funders informed of the most pressing issues in and innovations from the field.

### ***Local and Regional Programs***

- *Guestworkers, Immigration, and Race in the New Economy*, February 23, 2010, New York, NY. Led by Philanthropy New York with co-sponsorship by Carnegie Corporation of New York, Public Interest Projects, Ford Foundation, Open Society Institute, Unbound Philanthropy, and Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock.
- *Sowing Change 2010: A Funder's Tour of California's Central Valley*, September 21-23, 2010, Bakersfield, CA. Led by the Women's Foundation of California.

### ***National Programs***

- *Haitian Earthquake Relief & Rebuilding: What Funders Can Do to Support Haitians Stateside*, February 16, 2010, Webinar.
- *Organized Labor's Role in Comprehensive Immigration Reform*, February 17, 2010, Webinar.
- *The Economic Case for Comprehensive Immigration Reform*, February 23, 2010, Webinar.
- *What Grantmakers Need to Know About the Groundbreaking Practices to Engage ELL Students, Families and Communities*, April 20, 2010, Webinar. Presented jointly with Grantmakers for Education.
- *Immigrant Integration: National Trends, Local Influences*, April 26, 2010, Denver, CO. Council of Foundations 2010 Annual Conference.
- *Immigration Reform: Arizona and Beyond*, May 14, 2010, Webinar. Co-sponsored by Grantmakers for Children, Youth and Families, Four Freedoms Fund, and Funders Committee for Civic Participation.
- *Embracing the New America: Philanthropic Leadership for Shared Prosperity*, June 21-23, 2010, New York, NY. GCIR 2010 National Convening and 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration.
- *Investing in Our Next Generation: English Language Learners and Their Families*, June 22-23, 2010, New York, NY. Led by Grantmakers for Education with co-sponsorship by Philanthropy New York.
- *Beyond the Uniting American Families Act: LGBTQ Issues in Immigration*, July 8, 2010, Telebriefing. Led by Funders for Lesbian and Gay Issues with co-sponsorship by Hispanics in Philanthropy.
- *At the Intersection of Art, Advocacy and Immigrant Justice*, October 18, 2010, Chicago, IL. Grantmakers in the Arts Annual Conference.

- *Immigration Arts, Culture & Media*, October 27, 2010, Webinar. Led by The Opportunity Agenda with co-sponsorship by Unbound Philanthropy and Grantmakers in Film + Electronic Media.
- *21<sup>st</sup> Century Engagement: Lessons from the Youth Movement*, December 8, 2010, Washington, D.C. Funders Committee on Civic Participation 2010 Winter Convening.

### ***International Program***

- *Municipal Action on Integration: Exploring Public Private Partnerships*, January 19, 2010, Webinar. Led by Cities of Migration.

## **California Immigrant Integration Initiative (CIII)**

Through the California Immigrant Integration Initiative (CIII), GCIR plays a convening role to help California funders coordinate their efforts to strengthen the immigrant integration framework in California communities. Since it was organized in 2007, CIII has provided an important forum for identifying strategic partnerships and funding opportunities and for leveraging the influence and impact of philanthropic leadership and increasingly limited grant dollars.

In 2010, CIII focused on two key areas: (1) maximizing participation of immigrants and other hard-to-count populations in the 2010 Census, and (2) strengthening the statewide infrastructure for naturalization.

With regard to the 2010 Census, we raised and coordinated the allocation of nearly \$10 million in coordinated statewide and regional census funding and supported public-private partnerships in the Bay Area to maximize the 2010 Census count. We also produced a practical census funders' guide that was widely disseminated, as well as engaged key stakeholder groups, including local governments and community foundations, some of which remain involved in our work.

On the citizenship front, GCIR has laid the foundation to launch a statewide initiative to promote citizenship and civic participation among California's estimated 2.5 million citizenship-eligible immigrants. We conducted interviews of service providers and advocates to inform the development of this initiative. We also held conversations with funders in various regions of the state and have identified funding partners in the following counties: Alameda and Contra Costa in the East Bay of San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara in the Silicon Valley, and San Diego and Orange in Southern California.

## Information Resources

In 2010, GCIR offered wide-ranging resources through our website, e-newsletters, case studies, and publications. Our website had more than 25,600 unique hits, and our electronic distribution list reached nearly 1,000 funders. We regularly provided our members with updates that included new publications from GCIR and others in the field, alerts about upcoming events and program resources, and fast facts on a variety of issues to help them stay on top of the ever-changing immigration debate. Over the course of year, GCIR released eight member e-newsletters with information catering to their specific funding interests. In addition, we produced the following:

- ❖ ***The Chicago Community Trust: Investing in Public-Private Partnerships, a GCIR Case Study, January 2010.*** This GCIR case study highlights The Chicago Community Trust's three-year, \$1.5 million immigrant integration initiative. The study identifies successful Chicago strategies, such as support for local government leadership and public-private partnerships, and informs funders on how they can better leverage their grants for greater impact.
- ❖ ***Eliminating Language Barriers for LEP Individuals, May 2010.*** Responding to changing demographics, the public and private sectors are developing new ways of communicating with limited English-speaking individuals. This report investigates how public agencies can communicate more effectively with limited English-speaking residents and enunciates lessons learned from language access programs across the country. The report concludes with a check list for developing effective language access practices and further resources.
- ❖ ***A More Perfect Union: Organized Labor's Critical Role in Comprehensive Immigration Reform, February 2010.*** This article traces the shift in the position of organized labor from its skeptical beginning to its current aggressive support for immigration reform and highlights labor's role in supporting and protecting the rights of all immigrant workers, regardless of their immigration status. It is GCIR's hope that by illuminating the role unions play in seeding and supporting innovating partnerships with immigrant worker centers and other independent work organizing efforts, this article will inspire foundations to consider supporting partnerships that allow the resources and leadership of unions to make a difference in the lives of working poor families.

## GCIR's Long-Range Strategic Plan

GCIR's 2011-2013 strategic plan builds on our strengths in the area of research, communications, programming, and technical assistance—as well as a large body of work on immigrant integration. In addition, it draws heavily on findings from a 2010 member survey, more than 50 formal interviews with funders from across the country, dozens of informal conversations with members and other stakeholders, and a rigorous assessment of challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

The strategic plan reflects the wide-ranging needs and interests of funders and responds to pressing issues facing immigrant and refugee communities in these volatile times. As such, it calls for GCIR to take a leadership role to engage philanthropy in:

- 1. Addressing the impact of existing and emerging laws and policies on immigrant and refugee families and communities.** Comprehensive and incremental immigration reform, immigration enforcement, labor, workforce development, and health are among our top priorities.
- 2. Promoting economic justice and expanding economic opportunity for low-wage immigrants and refugees.** We will hone in on best policies and practices in the areas of worker organizing, cross-sector/cross-community alliance building, workforce development, and other economic opportunity strategies.
- 3. Advancing citizenship and civic participation to fully integrate and fully engage newcomers in civic life.** We will partner with GCIR members locally, regionally, and nationally to increase service, advocacy, and organizing capacity to help eligible immigrants become U.S. citizens and to increase their level of civic engagement in local communities. To this end, we will develop regional funder collaborative pilots in at least three states with large concentrations of citizenship-eligible immigrants.

Finally, GCIR will track opportunities to have a strategic and value-added role in moving forward a comprehensive agenda to promote immigrant and refugee rights and integration at the local, state, and national levels. In the coming year, we will also explore how we can support foundations working on migration issues outside the United States.

## **In the Year Ahead**

As GCIR looks ahead to our work in 2011, partnering with our members, other funders, regional associations of grantmakers, and colleague affinity groups will remain critical to our success—and to the ongoing integration of immigrants and refugees into social, economic, and civic life of their new communities. In the context of a challenging policy and economic environment, we will continue to ensure that our members—and the grantmaking community as a whole—have the knowledge, materials, and resources they need to build a strong case for supporting a wide range of immigrant- and refugee-related issues and programs within their foundations.