



GRANTMAKERS CONCERNED WITH  
IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

## GCIR E-NEWSLETTER MAY 2007

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## Comprehensive Immigration Reform

**The STRIVE Act** The STRIVE Act (The Security Through Regularized Immigration and a Vibrant Economy Act, H.R. 1645), introduced in the House by Rep. Jeff Flake (R-AZ) and Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-IL) on March 22, 2007, now has 54 cosponsors. The National Immigration Law Center provides a quick overview of the key provisions [here](#). For more in-depth information, go [here](#). On the Senate side, debate on immigration reform legislation is set to begin the week of May 14.

**EDITORIAL: Family Values, Betrayed** **The New York Times, May 4, 2007.** Closing the door to family-based immigration would be unjust and unworkable, and a mockery of the values that conservatives profess.

**Senators Push for Immigration Compromise, Reuters, April 30, 2007.** Members of a bipartisan group of U.S. senators are pushing to reach agreement on immigration reform that would offer some illegal immigrants a chance to become citizens, and the coming month will prove critical to their efforts.

**Editorial: The Amnesty Sideshow, The New York Times, April 30, 2007.** On the volatile topic of immigration, Republicans are falling over themselves to convince voters that where they stand is not where they stood.

**Rethinking the Revolving Door for Immigration, Neil G. Ruiz and Jeffrey D. Manns, The Brookings Institution, April 23, 2007.** The STRIVE Act is the latest incarnation of a temporary workers' scheme to hit Capitol Hill. Congressmen Jeff Flake and Luis Gutierrez have recognized that the existing system for temporary workers is broken as was underscored by the fact that a year's worth of H1 visas for skilled workers was exhausted in a single day.

**Immigration Countdown, by Tamar Jacoby, Manhattan Institute, April 20, 2007.** Will Congress actually pass immigration reform this year? The debate these days is not only about policy. While there are still critical issues to be decided, the surprising news is that key Democrats and Republicans increasingly agree on the outlines of what needs to be done. What could hold them, and the country, back, is the politics of the 2008 elections.

**The Fight of Our Lives, by Deepak Bhargava and Angelica Salas, The Nation, April 19, 2007.** Congress is poised to begin a debate on what might be the only major progressive legislation with a chance in 2007--comprehensive immigration reform. Winning immigration reform would produce millions of new US citizens who would change the face of the electorate. The immigrants' rights movement needs allies to win in 2007, and it will remember those who showed up for the fight.

**Congress and White House Release Competing Proposals for Immigration Reform, by Dawn Konet and Julia Gelatt, Migration Policy Institute, April 16, 2007.** House Representatives Luis Gutierrez (D-IL) and Jeff Flake (R-AZ) introduced comprehensive immigration reform legislation in March. The Security Through Regularized Immigration and a Vibrant Economy (STRIVE) Act addresses border security and the unauthorized immigrant population. It would also create a new guest worker program.

**Comparing Immigration Bills, The Associated Press, April 12, 2007.** Highlights of a White House immigration proposal and a Senate-passed bill from last year.

## Recent Reports and News Articles

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### U.S. Immigration Policy

**Protests across U.S. Focus on Raids, Reform, by Ronald C. Archibold, San Francisco**

**Chronicle, May 2, 2007.** Demonstrations pressing for immigrants' rights drew tens of thousands of people across the nation on Tuesday, with some cities, like Chicago, attracting much larger crowds than those in the Bay Area. But with advocates splintered over tactics, the crowds paled in comparison with the turnout last year.

**U.N. Rights Expert to Probe U.S. Treatment of Illegal Immigrants, by Elaine Engeler,**

**Associated Press, April 27, 2007.** A United Nations human rights expert will head to the United States later this month to investigate a highly criticized Texas center for detained immigrant families and two border areas where U.S. officials...

**Lottery Used to Narrow Work Visa Petitions, by Julia Preston, The New York Times, April**

**14, 2007.** Swamped by petitions for work visas from highly skilled foreigners, immigration authorities have conducted a lottery to determine which ones will be considered, federal officials said.

**Criminalizing a Community, by Teresa Puente, Chicago Tribune, April 29, 2007.** Imagine federal agents bursting into Water Tower Place or the Oakbrook Center mall in a crime sting. Imagine them holding up photos of white male suspects and comparing them with the white men present in the store. Imagine them kicking open the doors of the ladies room with their guns drawn.

**Immigration Officials Sued for Detaining Child 10 Hours, by Juliana Barbassa, Associated**

**Press, April 26, 2007.** Seven-year-old Kebin Reyes was taken from his bed during an immigration raid and illegally held for 10 hours, according to civil suit filed Thursday against federal officials.

**Increase in Immigration Raids Questioned, by Michelle Mittelstadt, Houston Chronicle,**

**April 23, 2007.** Federal agents have been swooping into workplaces with increasing frequency, snatching up illegal immigrants employed at construction sites, manufacturing plants and other businesses.

**OP-ED CONTRIBUTOR; A Safe Haven in New Haven, by Michele Wucker, The New York**

**Times, April 15, 2007.** As Washington tussles over the fate of the nation's estimated 12 million undocumented immigrants, municipal governments are taking sides. Places like Morristown, N.J., and

Danbury, Conn., are cracking down. Others, like New Haven and New York City, are embracing their undocumented workers.

**U.S. Raid on an Immigrant Household Deepens Anger and Mistrust**, by **Nina Bernstein**, **The New York Times**, **April 10, 2007**. A crackdown on one extended family — legal immigrants all — exhibits growing tension in Suffolk between immigrants and longtime residents. For the full text of the article, please contact [Bryan Rhodes](#).

**Crackdown on Fugitives Nets Many Arrests**, **The Associated Press**, **April 5, 2007**. More than one-third of 18,000 people arrested in a nearly yearlong federal crackdown on illegal immigrants were not the people authorities targeted, according to government figures.

**Immigration Raid Yields 62 Arrests in Illinois**, by **Libby Sander**, **The New York Times**, **April 5, 2007**. Immigration agents arrested two managers and 60 other employees of an industrial cleaning company Wednesday on immigration violations and charges of identity theft in an early morning raid at a meatpacking plant in central Illinois.

**Feds' Role Confusing in ICE Operations**, by **Onell R. Soto**, **San Diego Union-Tribune**, **April 4, 2007**. Operations by immigration agents have led to confusion about what the federal government is doing and whether it's rounding up illegal immigrants indiscriminately.

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### Immigration Integration

**Bosnians in America: A Two-Sided Saga**, by **Lynette Clemetson**, **The New York Times**, **April 29, 2007**. A group of Bosnian refugees has formed a leadership initiative and a support group intended to help other young Bosnians adjust to life in the United States.

**HOME FRONT; At Whole Foods, a Welcome Sign for Immigrants Seeking Jobs**, by **Joseph P. Fried**, **The New York Times**, **April 29, 2007**. Immigrants and refugees can receive a leg up through a pre-interview training program supported by Whole Foods Market and a social services group.

**CITYWIDE; When American Dream Leads to Servitude**, by **David Gonzalez**, **The New York Times**, **April 24, 2007**. Fear, uncertainty and cultural taboos make it hard for victims of human trafficking to speak out.

**For Some Hispanics, Coming to America Also Means Abandoning Religion**, by **Laurie Goodstein**, **The New York Times**, **April 15, 2007**. A wave of research shows that increasing

percentages of Hispanics are abandoning church, suggesting that along with assimilation comes a measure of secularization.

**PHOTOGRAPHY; Capturing the Teenage Immigrant Experience**, by **Laura Rivera**, **The New York Times**, **April 15, 2007**. Barbara Beirne's most recent project, "Becoming American: Teenagers and Immigration," depicts adolescent newcomers and first-generation teenagers.

**After Darfur, Starting Anew in the Midwest**, by **Susan Saluny**, **The New York Times**, **April 2, 2007**. In Indiana, people fleeing the violence of Darfur find an unlikely new home that is diverse and welcoming.

**DEMOGRAPHICS; Big Hispanic Undercount? Town Wants Its Own Tally**, by **Nicole Cotroneo**, **The New York Times**, **April 1, 2007**. With an uncalculated influx of Hispanic immigrants living in a finite pool of affordable housing, the situation in this North Fork village is a common one across Long Island. But a recent response by village government is not.

**Growing Share of Immigrants Choosing Naturalization**, by **Jeffrey S. Passel**, **Pew Hispanic Center**, **March 28, 2007**. The proportion of all legal foreign-born residents who have become naturalized U.S. citizens rose to 52% in 2005, the highest level in a quarter of a century and a 14 percentage point increase since 1990, according to an analysis by the Pew Hispanic Center.

**Reforming U.S. Immigration Policy: Open New Pathways to Integration**, by **Audrey Singer**, **The Brookings Institution**, **February 28, 2007**. In the face of polarized public opinion and an unresolved congressional debate on the issue of illegal immigration, reforming U.S. immigration policy will be high on the 2008 Presidential campaign agenda.

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### International Immigration

**Markets Suffer After Russia Bans Immigrant Vendors**, by **Andrew E. Kramer**, **April 14, 2007**. A strict anti-immigrant measure allowing only Russians to sell vegetables and other market goods is resulting in acute shortages and price increases in some regions.

**Indonesia's Labor Looks Abroad**, by **Graeme Hugo**, **Migration Policy Institute**, **April 2007**. Indonesia, the fourth most populous nation in the world, is highly diverse in terms of both terrain and culture. Muslims, Christians, and Hindus, along with followers of other faiths, share this enormous archipelago in the waters between the Indian and Pacific oceans.

**Singapore Woos Immigrants to Boost Population, Reuters, March 25, 2007.** Many countries - such as Spain, Ireland and United Arab Emirates -- rely on immigration to boost a shrinking labor force. But Singapore's immigration plan is unique because it would boost the population by nearly 50 percent, to the point where those born in Singapore would barely form a majority in their own country.

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### Economic Impact

**Boomers' Good Life Tied to Better Life for Immigrants, by Miriam Jordan, Wall Street Journal, May 7, 2007.** The quality of life for some 80 million graying baby boomers in the U.S. may depend in large part on the fortunes of another high-profile demographic group: millions of mostly Hispanic immigrants and their children. If you are not a WSJ subscriber, contact [Bryan Rhodes](#) for the full article.

**Tax Returns Rise for Immigrants in U.S. Illegally, by Nina Bernstein, The New York Times, April 16, 2007.** With the tax deadline approaching, illegal immigrants are sending in federal returns in what appear to be record numbers despite fears heightened by recent immigration raids around the country.

**ECONOMIC VIEW; Parsing the Truths About Visas for Tech Workers, by Steven Lohr, The New York Times, April 15, 2007.** The United States has benefited immensely from its role as a magnet for the best and brightest workers from around the world, especially in innovative fields like high technology. Bill Gates, the chairman of Microsoft, sounded precisely that theme in Senate testimony last month when asked about the visa program for skilled workers, the H-1B.

**Census: Immigration Helps Big Metros Grow, The Associated Press, April 5, 2007.** Without immigrants pouring into the nation's big metro areas, places such as New York, Los Angeles and Boston would be shrinking as native-born Americans move farther out.

**EDITORIAL; In Defense of Day Laborers, The New York Times, March 28, 2007.** In cities and suburbs across America, the confluence of homes, big-box stores and striving immigrant men has created an informal, often unruly job marketplace that has survived every effort to ban it or harass it out of existence.

**Trends in the Low-Wage Immigrant Labor Force, 2000-2005, by Randolph Capps, Karina Fortuny, Michael E. Fix, The Urban Institute, March 6, 2007.** As Congress debates the fate of more than 10 million unauthorized immigrants living in the United States, their impact on the U.S. low-skilled labor force is an important consideration. In 2005, immigrants overall represented more than a

fifth of low-wage workers—those earning less than twice the minimum wage—and almost half of workers without a high school education.

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## Children, Youth, and Families

### **The Human Face of Immigration Raids in Bay Area - Arrests of Parents Can Deeply Traumatize Children Caught in the Fray, Experts Argue, by Tyche Hendricks, San**

**Francisco Chronicle, April 27, 2007.** Immigration agents arrested siblings Victor and Elvira Mendoza, 21 and 17, when it turned out the fugitive they were looking for no longer lived at the Mendozas' home.

### **A Family's Painful Split Decision, by Anna Gorman, The Los Angeles Times, April 27, 2007.**

Each night, Leslie, 16, and Adilene Muñoz, 8, sleep restlessly in their parents' bed while their brother Marcos, 13, covers himself with a blanket on the floor beside them. Across the border in Tijuana, their parents lie awake in their small third-story apartment, feeling anxious and helpless.

### **FCD's 2007 Child Well-Being Index page, Foundation for Child Development, April 2007.**

While children's quality of life improved from the mid-1990s through 2002, further progress has stalled, according to the Foundation for Child Development's 2007 Child and Youth Well-Being Index (CWI). This stall can be found across five of the CWI's seven domains. The exceptions are children's health, which continues its dramatic decline, and children's safety and behavior, which continues to improve.

### **Children in Immigrant Families - The U.S. and 50 States: National Origins, Language, and Early Education, Foundation for Child Development, April 2007.**

Twenty percent of children in the U.S. now live with at least one foreign born parent. This research brief by Child Trends and the Center for Social and Demographic Analysis of the State University of New York at Albany, reveals that children in immigrant families are deeply rooted in the U.S. (four in five are American citizens) and nearly one-half speak English fluently and another language at home. At the same time, many young children in immigrant families would benefit from quality early education programs to further their integration into American society.

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## Education

### **Adult Literacy Education in Immigrant Communities: Identifying Policy and Program**

**Priorities for Helping Newcomers Learn English, published by the Asian American Justice Center,**

offers an in-depth look at pressing language barriers facing the estimated 2.23 million adults in this

country who are Limited English Proficient (LEP)—and how best to solve them. This report provides an

overview of issues discussed at the Adult Literacy Education in Immigrant Communities summit held in Washington, D.C. Led by AAJC and held in partnership with the National Immigration Forum and the National Council of La Raza, along with more than 50 stakeholders, the meeting and this study have brought to the fore new, innovative ways to best help this underserved population. Funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

**California's Commitment to Adult English Learners: Caught Between Funding and Need**, by **Arturo Gonzalez, Public Policy Institute of California, April 2007**. This report examines the discrepancy between California's goal of providing free English classes and the reality that the current funding system for providing classes is about 30 years out of date. During those 30 years, the state's immigrant population has exploded. The gap between goal and reality has created an excessive financial burden on some local school districts—which provide most of the state's English as a Second Language (ESL) classes—and may be forcing other districts to turn away immigrants who want to learn English.

**Out-of-School Immigrant Youth**, by **Laura E. Hill and Joseph M. Hayes, Public Policy Institute of California, April 2007**. This report examines a little noticed group of Californians: young immigrants not in school and who receive few if any educational services. The authors also observe the federal Migrant Education Program (MEP), charged with helping this group. Using MEP and census data, the authors find that many out-of-school youth work, left school while quite young, and have very poor spoken English skills. Some are as young as 13, yet work and live without their parents. Many say they want to continue their education. If policymakers are to help this group, the authors say, strategies in addition to traditional education models may be necessary.

**Educating Immigrant Children**, by **Lucy Hood, Carnegie Corporation of New York, Spring 2007**. Public schools have long been an important component of life for immigrant children in the United States. What about when those students are undocumented?

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## Health

**\$500 Million Pledged to Fight Childhood Obesity**, by **Stephanie Strom, The New York Times, April 4, 2007**. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation plans to spend more than \$500 million over the next five years to reverse the increase in childhood obesity. It is one of the largest public health initiatives ever tried by a private philanthropy.

**EDITORIAL; The Medicaid Documentation Mess**, **The New York Times, March 19, 2007**. Exaggerated fears that illegal immigrants are fraudulently receiving Medicaid health benefits have led to a

crackdown that is preventing American citizens from obtaining legitimate coverage. Congress needs to fix this injustice.

## Resources of Interest

**2005 American Community Survey and Census Data on the Foreign Born by State**, Migration Policy Institute. A new research tool from the Migration Policy Institute provides instant access to information on the foreign born in the workforce nationally and in each of the 50 states. With the click of a button, journalists and researchers can access data from a selected state, including top occupations and industries of native-born and foreign-born people; Growth in foreign-born workers between 2000 and 2005; Workers' English-proficiency levels and languages they speak at home; The percentage of the state workforce that is foreign born compared to other states; and more.

## Upcoming Programs

**The Role of Foundations in Promoting Immigrant Integration, May 24, 2007, Arizona Community Foundation, Phoenix, AZ.** This session will introduce participants to an exciting new framework and a set of promising practices for building strong, cohesive communities. It will also explore practical roles that foundations can play—and are playing—to promote newcomer integration. For more information, contact [Alison De Lucca](#) or 310.659.5090.

**Immigrant Integration: Policies, Challenges, and Opportunities in New York State, June 14, 10-noon, The New York Community Trust.** New York City has a long, although mixed, tradition of welcoming immigrants and helping them adapt to life in the United States, But increasing numbers of immigrants now live outside the City, where the opportunities for and challenges of integration may be different. What are the state policies and programs to promote assist immigrant integration? What are the challenges and opportunities for immigrants in different parts of the state? And how are immigrant organizations around the state working together on common issues? Please register by Monday, June 11th, by sending an email to [register@nyrag.org](mailto:register@nyrag.org).

## Programs of Interest

**Peril, Potential and Opportunity: A Donor Strategy Session on the Future of Elections, May 21-23, 2007, The Funders' Committee for Civil Participation, Preservation Park, Oakland, CA.** The Funders' Committee for Civic Participation (FCCP) invites you to join colleagues and friends

from across the country for a strategy session on voter engagement and election administration issues. We will be focusing on the 2007-2008 election cycles as well as looking beyond and examining what it will take to build the field, increase voter participation from underrepresented communities and protect the integrity of our elections over the long term.

**The Immigration Advocates Network: An Online Legal Support Network for Immigration Advocates, June 6, 2007, Carnegie Corporation, New York, New York.** The prospect of comprehensive immigration reform is forcing advocates, legal services providers and funders to think about how to build capacity in the field to meet the tremendous demand for legal services that will follow passage of any legislation. A new collaborative undertaking, the Immigration Advocates Network can serve as a key online networking and information resource to support the field in meeting these upcoming challenges. Please come hear IAN's creators discuss the power of this networking tool and learn about how Pro Bono Net's other networking and support web sites have been used to mobilize legal services and pro bono relief efforts after September 11th and Hurricane Katrina.

**Grantmakers Without Borders' 7th Annual Conference on Social Change Philanthropy, June 7-9, 2007, New York, NY.** This year, Grantmakers Without Borders will bring together a diverse assembly of foundation staff and trustees, committed individual donors and global Southern activists to learn about, discuss and debate social change grantmaking practices and explore some of the most critical issues facing grassroots communities in Africa, Asia and Latin America today.

**Immigrant Civic Participation: A Funder Briefing, June 18, 2007, Las Vegas, NV.** Please join us in Las Vegas—one of the fastest growing urban areas in the United States, attracting tens of thousands of immigrant workers every year as we explore the challenges and opportunities to immigrant civic participation. Co-sponsored by The American Dream Fund, The Four Freedoms Fund, the Funders' Committee for Civic Participation. For more information, contact FCCP and ADR Program Associate [Mario Lugay](#) or FFF Program Associate [Naomi Abraham](#).

**Grantmakers For Education 11th Annual Conference: Crossing Borders and Boundaries, October 17-19, 2007, Tamaya, NM.** Grantmakers for Education's 2007 conference will be an opportunity to reflect, listen and learn in the contemplative rural setting of New Mexico's Tamaya Resort. We'll examine the ways we can engage the diverse voices of our pluralistic society to build a new model of education and philanthropy for a global era.

**Grantmakers in the Arts 2007 Conference: Taos Journey, October 21-24, Taos, NM.** Local naturalists, storytellers, artists, tribal leaders, ranchers, farmers, and poets will offer fresh perspectives

and punctuate the proceedings. Participants will have the opportunity to experience Taos Pueblo and learn the history of this community continuously inhabited for over 1,000 years.

## Announcements

Kafi D. Blumenfield has been named Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of Liberty Hill Foundation. Prior to joining Liberty Hill, she was Deputy Director of Neighbor to Neighbor, a national organization dedicated to grassroots political empowerment of working families. Since 2004, she was the director of LibertyVote!, Liberty Hill's groundbreaking civic engagement program and was a member of Liberty Hill's environmental justice grantmaking board from 2001 to 2004.

**The Foundation for Child Development**, which focuses on improving life prospects for America's children, has launched a redesigned website. A quick search on "immigrant children" yielded more than 50 results including numerous studies on the topic.

## Employment Opportunities

**The Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock** is seeking to fill the position of Program Officer to monitor the progress of existing grants; to conduct periodic evaluations of the impact of funding in broad programmatic areas supported by the Veatch Program; and analyze opportunities for new program development. For a full position description, email [GCIR](mailto:GCIR). A resume and cover letter, with names and phone numbers of three references, should be submitted by May 21, 2007 electronically to [nate@veatch.org](mailto:nate@veatch.org) or by mail to UU Veatch Program, 48 Shelter Rock Road, Manhasset, NY 11050. No phone calls please.

**The Brett Family Foundation** is looking for a new Executive Director who will also serve as a Philanthropic Advisor to Linda Shoemaker on initiatives that fall outside the foundation's scope. The Executive Director position at the Brett Family Foundation contains responsibilities in four distinct areas: 1.) Community Leadership; 2.) Organizational Leadership and Development; 3.) Program Development and Management; and 4.) Administration and Financial Oversight.

**Hispanics in Philanthropy** is searching for a Director of Development who will be based out of its San Francisco headquarters. The Director of Development will oversee all areas of fund development, including: relationships with institutional funders and individual donors, including grantwriting, as well as membership and special events.

**Northern California Grantmakers** is seeking a Program Associate under Effective Philanthropy & Public Policy. This position offers a unique opportunity to work with a diverse group of foundations during a time of significant change in the field of philanthropy. The Program Associate works in close partnership with the Director of Effective Philanthropy and members of NCG's volunteer committees in duties related to organizing and implementing efforts to advance effective philanthropy in the region and advancing NCG position as a leading and credible voice for philanthropy.

**Northern California Grantmakers** is also seeking a Director of Member Services. This position offers a unique opportunity to work with a diverse group of foundations during a time of significant change in the field of philanthropy. The Director of Member Services works in close partnership with NCG senior management and members of NCG's volunteer committees in duties related to organizing and implementing efforts to recruit and retain the membership base of the organization; providing leadership in implementing innovative membership-related and revenue generating initiatives; and advancing NCG's position as a leading and credible voice for philanthropy. Deadline is June 15, 2007.

**The American Immigration Law Foundation** seeks a Foundation Executive Director to lead development efforts; serve as principal spokesperson; lead, develop and nurture five program divisions; and manage a growing staff of 18. This is the perfect opportunity for an innovative, dynamic, action-oriented visionary, strategist, fundraiser and coalition-builder to lead our organization in fulfilling its mission of increasing public understanding of immigration law and policy, and the value of immigration to American society, and of advancing fundamental fairness and due.