



July 2020 Statewide Meeting, GCIR Updates

Asylum: In early July a federal judge [ruled against that the administration's policy of denying asylum](#) to individuals that had not first applied for asylum in countries they transited en route to the United States. However, the administration is currently pursuing a similar policy that would deny asylum to those who spent at least two weeks in another country en route to the US and did not apply for asylum. The policy is part of [package of policy changes being considered](#), including increasing the burden of proof for certain claims, narrowing the ability to claim asylum based on gender-related claims, reducing access to immigration judges, and other measures. The public was only given a 30-day window to comment on the proposed rules, which ended on July 15th. The Federal Court of Canada [struck down](#) the Safe Third Country Agreement between the U.S. and Canada citing that it was unconstitutional because U.S. detention deprives asylum seekers of the rights of life, liberty and the security of the person allowing asylum seekers to seek protection in Canada from the U.S.

Census: Outreach and engagement for the 2020 Census is ongoing both by the Census Bureau, with an advertising surge in the Los Angeles region this week, and by nonprofits, which continue to encourage participation by immigrant households. As of July 16th, the [CA response rate](#) was 63.3%, 1 point above the national average, and 4.9 points below CA's final response rate in 2010. Further complicating efforts in California to get a full and accurate count, and despite the Supreme Court previously ruling against the inclusion of a citizenship question on the Census, on July 21st the President released a [highly controversial memo](#), which if implementable, directs the government to exclude undocumented individuals from census data for the purposes of the apportionment count. Lawsuits have already been filed challenging the directive; GCIR's statement is [available here](#).

CIRF: The [California Immigrant Resilience Fund](#) continues to provide assistance to undocumented immigrants throughout the state. Over \$42m has been raised to date, with \$21.5m distributed to 60 local partner organizations. GCIR is continuing to fundraise to meet the \$50m goal as well as to raise additional dollars to support administrative expenses for the distribution partners. Interested funders can contact [Aryah Somers Landsberger, VP of Programs](#).

COVID: Since releasing [our recommendations](#) in April 2020 on how philanthropy could respond to the then still-emerging pandemic, GCIR has continued to engage nonprofits around the state to understand the impact of COVID-19 on California's immigrant-led and serving organizations. The findings from these 50+ discussions are [available here](#). Highlights include the need to support structural change efforts and assistance in bridging the digital divide in immigrant communities.

DACA: On June 18th, 2020 the Supreme Court ruled that the administration had violated the Administrative Procedure Act in its attempt to terminate the DACA program. Following the decision, a federal judge ruled that not only must the administration resume processing renewals, as had been understood from the SOCUTS decision, but that it also must accept new applications. The administration has indicated it will seek to shut down the program again and it is unclear how USCIS will handle first-time applications. On July 17th, a US District Court Judge in Maryland [ordered](#) the administration and USCIS to implement the full restoration of the DACA program – including initial DACA applications and advance parole – or be in contempt of court. [USCIS has ceased printing green cards and work permits](#), impacting DACA applicants and thousands of other pending applications, and is citing the pandemic as a reason to cease the operations. GCIR's recommendations of how funders can act support the DACA community during this time are [available here](#).

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For more information on any of these updates, contact [Kevin Douglas, Director of National Programs](#)

Detention and Enforcement: On July 4th, 2020, the administration deployed federal law enforcement officers to Portland that are [believed to have included Customs and Border Protection](#) agents from BORTAC who are alleged to have engaged in violent acts against protestors and [removing protestors in unmarked vehicles](#). Meanwhile, in detention centers across the U.S., [immigrants have tested for and died of COVID while detained](#). While lawsuits have been filed in jurisdictions across the country, release from detention based on COVID risk factors is not happening resulting in illness and death.

Family Separation and Unaccompanied Children: On June 26th, Judge Gee [ruled](#) in the Flores case that all children must be released from federal family detention centers and the administration indicated that it would begin releasing children from the federal family detention centers, effectively separating them from their parents who would remain detained. A separate [lawsuit](#) was filed subsequently requesting the release of parents with their children, but a decision was put on hold until the parties to the Judge Gee ruling could negotiate a process for release. On July 21, several organizations filed a [motion to intervene](#) in the Flores case pending before Judge Gee alleging that the lead counsel for children was negotiating away the option that children should be released with their parents. Meanwhile, in Texas and Arizona, unaccompanied children are [being detained by ICE in hotels](#) and summarily expelled without access to counsel. This is in line with [reports](#) that few unaccompanied children are being transferred to ORR custody under the administration's public health directive.

Secondary Trauma: In recognition of the extraordinary circumstances immigrant-serving organizations and staff have been under for the past several years—and especially for staff who come from immigrant backgrounds/households themselves—GCIR embarked on a research study with the support of consultants, to understand how nonprofits have been responding to Secondary Traumatic Stress (STS) and how funders can best support these grantees. The report, based on a review of available literature, 1:1 phone interviews, and four focus groups across the country (Chicago, El Paso, Miami, Phoenix), is nearing completion and GCIR will be organizing a webinar on the findings late summer or early fall.

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