



Centering Racial Justice in the Immigrant Rights Movement

Immigrant rights and justice funders stand in an unprecedented moment to elevate leaders and organizations in the immigrant rights movement that are centering racial justice and advancing cross-movement alliances. Immigrant movement leaders, grassroots organizers, and activists are striving to combat anti-Blackness and structural racism within the immigrant rights movement, undertaking the often-painful work of healing and relationship-building across communities, and building power to jointly advance a common anti-criminalization agenda for systemic and structural changes to the criminal legal and migration systems that impact their communities and lives. In philanthropy, racial justice, criminal justice, and immigrant justice funding portfolios are often siloed from one another with limited funding of cross movement and intersectional work. Now more than ever, immigrant rights and justice funders must incorporate a racial justice and equity lens, as well as understand explicitly and intentionally that immigrant justice is fundamentally about racial justice.

Recommendations to Funders

- Support **Black immigrant organizing** nationally, regionally, and locally that is centering racial justice leadership and building transformational alliances.
- Fund **immigrants' rights groups to center race** and combat anti-Blackness, racism, and xenophobia to advance intersectional and inclusive work and groups that are interested in doing the same.
- Fund organizations and coalitions nationally and locally that are working to deepen partnerships across race (black, brown and multiracial) **and** movements (racial justice, immigrant justice, and criminal justice) and toward a **shared analysis and action agenda** that centers race.
- Invest in resources and capacity for transformational cross movement collaboration by being inclusive of the **healing work** required to unpack internalized racism and harm across and within movements that create barriers to deep collaboration.
- Fund **narratives that emerge from grassroots** leaders and organizations to drive narrative change work.
- Shift to a framework that **centers people** instead of issues and where people in community make the connections and drive the agenda for cross movement work.
- **Expand timelines** for grantmaking recognizing that social change through cross movement collaboration happens over decades.
- **Transcend the silos in your own foundations** by reaching out to and coordinating with colleagues in the racial justice, economic justice, criminal justice, and other spaces who are tackling race and racism.
- Support **trust-building amongst organizers, movement leaders, and philanthropy** to transcend transactional ways of working with one another and instead see each other as partners in social change.

For more information on grantmaking strategies and opportunities, please reach out to Rini Chakraborty at RChakraborty@neophilanthropy.org, Angie Junck at ajunck@hsfoundation.org, and Aryah Somers Landsberger at aryah@gcir.org.