



## Delivering on the Dream Spring 2021 Update

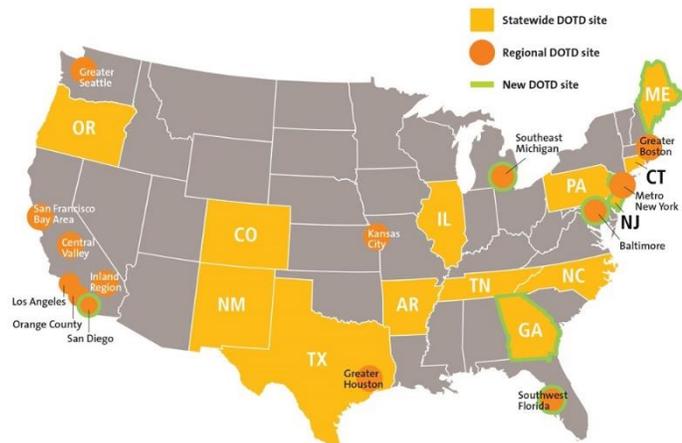
### Context

While significant progress has already been made in 2021 to restore and advance immigrant justice, the fight is far from over. The immigrant justice movement can count a number of early victories, including the temporary preservation of DACA, the end of the Muslim Ban, the reversal of the public charge policy expansion, and the termination of the Remain in Mexico program. Nonetheless, the asylum system remains under-resourced even as significant humanitarian needs emerge; toxic white supremacy infects immigration reform debates; the Biden administration continues to use Title 42 to expel asylum seekers; and the administration shows a lack of commitment to refugee protection by delaying the increase of the refugee admissions cap.

In this moment, we know there is great potential for philanthropy to unleash the power of movement and infrastructure-building organizations through strategic and meaningful investments. This opportunity aligns squarely with GCIR's affirmative vision for philanthropy as well as our intention in 2021 to push philanthropic practice, provide a political home for funders, create a platform for funders and leaders in the immigrant justice movement (particularly BIPOC), and facilitate public-private partnerships. Guided by this vision and context, this document summarizes updates to DOTD that we believe best support and leverage the potential of local funding collaboratives, national funder contributions, and movement priorities in 2021.

### Background

Launched in 2012 to provide eligible immigrants with access to the life-changing benefits of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), DOTD is a national network of funding collaboratives investing needed resources to protect and defend the rights of immigrants and refugees. With matching dollars from national funders incentivizing local funder participation, by 2020 GCIR had grown DOTD to 27 funder collaboratives in 21 states. Together, since 2012 these DOTD collaboratives have raised and deployed over \$78 million to more than 500 grantees across the country. Originally supporting collaboratives to build the education, navigation, and legal services infrastructure to facilitate submission of DACA applications, DOTD has since expanded to support a multitude of innovative strategies. In 2021, DOTD is poised to help implement immigration relief, address the adverse effects of immigration executive orders and policy changes, and advance integration into American society in the longer term.



In recent years, several factors have influenced the shape and direction of the DOTD, including reduction in the amount of matching funds available due to the shifting priorities of national funders, expansion of the network

in response to geographic gaps and strategic opportunities, and a visioning process at the 2019 network retreat that identified guiding principles and objectives. These included:

- Building and sustaining the capacity of immigrant-led and -serving organizations
- Centering immigrant voices through leadership development and power building
- Fostering increased alignment and collaboration between immigrant justice and other social justice efforts
- Adopting equitable grantmaking practices to address longstanding biases and barriers

In 2020, GCIR implemented an application process for local collaboratives and adopted funding priorities after consultation with the network. GCIR also updated the reporting process in 2020, with key changes including: migrating from excel charts to web-based tools, streamlining data collection, and broadening qualitative reporting options. GCIR agreed to prioritize support for:

- Recently launched collaboratives
- Collaboratives in regions with significant immigrant populations
- Collaboratives in regions with limited or difficult-to-engage local philanthropy
- Collaboratives in regions with high anti-immigrant sentiment and hostile state or local policy environment
- Collaboratives that intend to actively participate in the peer learning community

## 2021 Updates to DOTD Network

This moment presents challenges, but also great opportunity for philanthropy to make strategic and meaningful investments to help meet immediate needs, build community leadership and power, and work toward long-term policy change. It is within this context, and in alignment with GCIR's vision of an inclusive and just society, that we announce an updated structure and updated funding priorities for the DOTD network in 2021.

### **1) DOTD Structure and Matching Fund Eligibility**

GCIR is implementing a two-tiered structure for DOTD membership in 2021. Collaboratives meeting the Tier II criteria will be eligible to apply for DOTD matching funds and will also have access to the resources and opportunities listed under Tier I. Tier I members will continue to be a part of the DOTD learning community, with access to DOTD resources, programs, and consultation with GCIR staff.

#### **Tier I**

- ✓ Access to quarterly network meetings that feature policy updates, presentations from the field, and peer-learning opportunities.
- ✓ Access to GCIR's national webinars, funding recommendations, and other resources.
- ✓ Access to GCIR staff for consultation on immigration issues and grantmaking.

#### **Tier II**

- ✓ Access to Tier I benefits plus eligibility to *apply* for national matching funds when available. Eligibility is limited to collaboratives that:
  - Are GCIR members (collaborative coordinator's institution).
  - Involve at least two local funders collaboratively working to support immigrant communities via pooled or aligned grantmaking (single-funder efforts ineligible).
  - Are led by a funder\*, or co-led by a funder and a community organization or coalition (non-funder-led efforts ineligible).
  - Have participated in at least three of the last four network meetings prior to the date of the funding application, or will commit to doing so from the date of application.

*\*Collaboratives led by a funder are those where an individual with a philanthropic affiliation: organizes the strategy, discussion, and grantmaking among collaborative members; serves as the primary point of contact for GCIR; participates in network meetings on behalf of the collaborative; and manages the application and reporting process on behalf of the collaborative.*

## **2) DOTD Funding and Reporting**

### **Funding**

- ✓ The application process for collaborative funding will be released in the coming weeks.
- ✓ Funding to collaboratives will be transferred directly by GCIR and not via an intermediary.

### **Reporting**

- ✓ The recently updated reporting process will remain in place, with new dates and forms made available following any awards.
- ✓ All reporting will be submitted directly to GCIR and not to an intermediary, thus streamlining the reporting process and reducing the reporting work.

### **Priorities**

- ✓ GCIR's priorities in awarding matching funds will be informed by the aforementioned criteria, plus consideration of this pivotal moment for immigrant justice. With full details to come in the funding application, GCIR anticipates prioritizing collaborative efforts that do two or more of the following:
  - Center power-building strategies
  - Support a specific response to asylum &/or border issues
  - Undergird or expand legal services and other capacity to respond to immigration reforms
  - Secure new funders relative to the collaborative's 2020 contributors
  - Provide earmarked funding to grantees to support staff well-being

## **Conclusion**

The DOTD network is a long-standing and powerful infrastructure for organizing local funder investment across the country. With significant needs and opportunities on the table following the global pandemic and advent of a new federal administration, GCIR's goal is to leverage limited national funding to best accelerate local funder investments in strategies that build power, support well-being, and are responsive to the moment while keeping an eye on the long term. GCIR is grateful for the tremendous work of DOTD funders and grantees over the years, and we look forward to our ongoing partnership.

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