



Building Forward *Together*

THE FOUR PILLARS OF GCIR'S WORK



Push philanthropic practice to move beyond incremental change and take bold action for the greatest possible impact on immigrant and refugee communities in the long term.



Create a political home for funders prioritizing immigrant rights and justice so they can strategize and coordinate in a generative environment of similarly oriented funding partners.



Provide a platform for movement leaders to amplify their voices and increase their impact, with a particular focus on historically marginalized communities.



Facilitate public-private partnerships to advance immigrant justice at the federal, state, and local levels.

Dear Colleagues:

2021 was a year of significant transitions for the country and for GCIR.

It ushered in a new federal administration and, along with it, renewed hope for immigrant justice. The Biden administration began by undoing many racist and draconian immigration policies from the Trump era, including fortifying Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), rescinding the Muslim Ban, and ending government funding of a border wall. Devastated communities could begin to heal from the compounding traumas of the past four years and emerge from a climate of constant fear. The potential for significant federal immigration relief was at its highest in decades.

Yet, 2021 also brought new tragedies and hardships, from the January 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, to the murder of Asian American women in the Atlanta spa shootings, to the multiple crises that drove Afghan, Haitian, and other migrants to seek safety at our borders. Meanwhile, the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, white nationalist backlash from state legislatures, and the Biden administration's subsequent actions—such as expelling Haitian migrants and failing to release immigrant detainees during the pandemic—continued to adversely affect immigrant communities and communities of color.



Marissa Tirona

Here at GCIR, 2021 marked the organization's first year with our new president, Marissa Tirona, at the helm. With Marissa's leadership and the strength of GCIR's 30-year legacy, we built forward our critical role as a philanthropic mobilizing organization that moves money and power on behalf of immigrant communities. Through our programs, resources, grantmaking, and communications, we addressed longstanding systemic issues while also galvanizing action and investments as new crises emerged.

Emphasizing the theme of power building, GCIR:

- uplifted the leadership of directly impacted communities
- amplified the voices of historically marginalized communities often excluded from philanthropic conversations
- centered racial, gender, and economic justice more explicitly
- increased our focus on the intersection of the immigrant justice movement with other social justice movements

In the year ahead, GCIR will undertake a strategic framework development process to reimagine and redefine the organization's role within the larger social justice ecosystem, and to reexamine our strategy for advancing sustainable and transformative change on behalf of immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. After more than three decades of driving high impact and meaningful outcomes, undergoing this process in this moment will ensure that GCIR continues to adapt to meet the evolving needs of immigrant communities and to serve its best and highest purpose. We look forward to advancing immigrant justice and belonging with you in this new chapter as we move ever closer to our collective liberation.

In solidarity,
The GCIR Team

**We built forward
our critical role
as a philanthropic
mobilizing
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moves money and
power on behalf
of immigrant
communities.**



In the wake of the January 6 insurrection and rioting at the U.S. Capitol, GCIR President Marissa Tirona urged philanthropy to build forward our democracy by building the power of Black, Brown, Indigenous, and immigrant communities. Photo: Pierre-Selim Licensed under CC BY 2.0

Cover: Protesters demonstrate in a show of support and solidarity with Afghans attempting to escape from the country and the ongoing violence. August 2021, San Francisco, California. Photo: Phil Pasquini / Shutterstock



Trusted Expertise on Critical Issues

GCIR's webinars equipped funders with the information they needed to begin moving beyond incremental change to effect transformative change over the long term. With the aim of building power across movements, we highlighted critical intersections between immigrant justice and other social justice issues, including [criminal justice reform](#), [climate change](#), and [economic justice](#).



In Koreatown Los Angeles, Melanie Bolanos, 9, holds a sign to protest hate crimes committed against Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. March 2021. Photo: Ringo Chiu/Shutterstock

We drew funder attention to directly impacted communities and leaders who are often overlooked and under-resourced, including [Asian American and Pacific Islander \(AAPI\) communities](#), [Black immigrants](#), [Indigenous migrants](#), and the growing [immigrant population in the South](#).

We informed funders about opportunities to

support [DACA recipients and DACA-eligible individuals](#) as well as [Afghan refugees](#), now and in the future. We emphasized the importance of sustainable infrastructure, encouraging funders to invest in building an [immigrant legal services infrastructure](#) in California and [infrastructure to ensure a fair and accurate census in 2030](#).

Finally, recognizing that the cumulative stresses of the past four years have overwhelmed and emotionally burdened service providers, organizers, and advocates—and recognizing also that the backbone of any movement is its people—we convened funders for virtual strategy sessions in [March](#) and [October](#) focused on addressing secondary trauma on the front lines.

Calls of Solidarity, Calls to Action

GCIR also issued statements and calls to action as challenges and opportunities arose, from the [insurrection and rioting at the Capitol](#) to the [federal court ruling on DACA](#), and from the humanitarian needs of [Afghan and Haitian migrants](#) to the [Islamophobia unleashed in the wake of 9/11](#) that persists 20 years later.

Lessons for Maximizing Philanthropic Impact

To increase the efficacy of future grantmaking and collaboration, GCIR published in-depth analyses of philanthropy's [Census 2020](#) and [Covid-19 response](#) efforts.



GCIR called funders' attention to the Islamophobia unleashed in the wake of 9/11 that persists 20 years later and what philanthropy can do to support BAMEMSA and immigrant communities. Photo: B.C. Lorio/ Creative Commons



GCIR published "Stand Together," an in-depth analysis of philanthropy's Covid-19 response.

CREATING A POLITICAL HOME



Since 2012, GCIR's DOTD network has deployed nearly \$90 million, supporting a multitude of innovative strategies to advance diverse, equitable, and vibrant communities in which immigrants and refugees are valued, respected, and treated with dignity. Photo: Susan Ruggles Licensed under CC BY 2.0



Through our longstanding funder networks, GCIR provided a political home for funders prioritizing immigrant rights and justice to learn, strategize, and coordinate with like-minded partners.



Delivering on the Dream

GCIR's [Delivering on the Dream \(DOTD\)](#) network has grown to include 27 collaboratives in 21 states, with more than 160 local, state, and national funders supporting over 700 grantees since DOTD's inception in 2012. These grantees work in multiple areas, including immigration legal services, advocacy and outreach, and education and Know Your Rights. In total, DOTD has mobilized nearly \$90 million for immigrant communities across the country over the past decade.

California Immigrant Integration Initiative

For the 14th consecutive year, GCIR's [California Immigrant Integration Initiative \(CIII\)](#) provided dozens of California funders with a robust infrastructure for developing rapid response funding strategies, quickly deploying resources to the areas of greatest need, and coordinating grantmaking to address the disproportionate impact of federal policies on the state with the largest immigrant population. In November, we partnered with the Institute for Local Government to host a [strategy session](#) exploring how government and philanthropic investments can help meet key legal services needs in the state.



PROVIDING A PLATFORM

Amplify

In July, GCIR launched a new quarterly blog series called *Amplify* in which we uplifted the voices of immigrant justice movement leaders. As with GCIR's programming, the blog series emphasized the theme of power building, shining a spotlight on organizations and issues often overlooked in funder conversations about immigrant justice. In 2021, we were honored to feature:



Lian Cheun

Lian Cheun, Executive Director of Khmer Girls in Action,

an organization working for gender, racial, and economic justice through community and power building efforts led by Southeast Asian young women. Lian shared her insights on how philanthropy can partner with grantees to co-design a new normal for our multiracial democracy in which immigrant communities, communities of color, women, and girls can truly thrive.



Kris Hayashi

Kris Hayashi, Executive Director of Transgender Law Center,

the largest trans-led organization in the country. Kris shared his thoughts about building power for trans communities of color, including trans migrants, and gave recommendations for how philanthropy can support and strengthen the work of trans-led movements.



"If foundations understand that some communities are impacted by multiple systems of oppression, their support will help trans migrant-led organizations develop the voice and strategy to strengthen the social justice movement as a whole."

—Kris Hayashi,
Executive Director of
Transgender Law Center



Khmer Girls in Action (KGA) advocated with the Long Beach mayor's office, resulting in an allocation of \$200,000 to develop a youth-led strategic plan for the city. KGA served as a consultant to the city to ensure that Black and Brown youth were included in the plan's development. A key outcome of the strategic planning process was the city's first-ever office of youth development.



A mother and her two children sit on the edge of their tent at a migrant camp of about 2,000 asylum seekers, mostly families, near El Chaparral pedestrian border bridge in Tijuana, Mexico. July 2021. Photo: Emilio Espejel/AP/Shutterstock

California Dignity for Families Fund

2021 saw migrants arriving at the southern U.S. border in record-breaking numbers, fleeing persecution, violence, poverty, and the devastating impacts of climate change. Many had been forced by the Trump administration to wait in Mexico in harsh and dangerous conditions. Seeking to honor the courage and humanity of these migrants and restore dignity to the asylum process, GCIR launched the [California Dignity for Families Fund](#) as part of a public-private partnership with Governor Gavin Newsom, who proposed an aligned investment of \$25 million to support migrant families and youth.

The fund resources organizations that provide migrant families and unaccompanied children with urgent humanitarian relief, ensure due process for asylum seekers, and support their resettlement in communities throughout the state. In September, the fund expanded its purpose to include support for Afghan and Haitian migrants.

As of December 2021, the fund had raised \$10 million from more than 20 foundations. Guided by an equity framework and an advisory committee with deep movement, community, government, and philanthropic experience, the fund awarded grants to organizations serving immigrant communities often excluded from grantmaking priorities, including Black, Indigenous, Muslim, Latinx, LGBTQIA+, womxn, youth, people with disabilities, and undocumented immigrants.



The fund resources organizations that provide migrant families and unaccompanied children with urgent humanitarian relief, ensure due process for asylum seekers, and support their resettlement in communities throughout the state.



**CALIFORNIA
DIGNITY
FOR FAMILIES
FUND**

2021 FUNDERS

Anonymous
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Blue Shield of California Foundation
Carnegie Corporation of New York
Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund
Ford Foundation
Heising-Simons Foundation
Long Ridge Foundation
Marin Community Foundation
Messing Family Charitable Foundation
National Philanthropic Fund
Open Society Foundations
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Stupski Foundation
The California Endowment
The Global Whole Being Fund
The Gregg and Ruth Gorrin Family Fund
The Grove Foundation
The Haas Leadership Initiatives, a project of The Tides Center
The James Irvine Foundation
The JPB Foundation
Unbound Philanthropy
Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock
Weingart Foundation
Zegar Family Foundation
Zellerbach Family Foundation

California Dignity for Families Fund Contributors

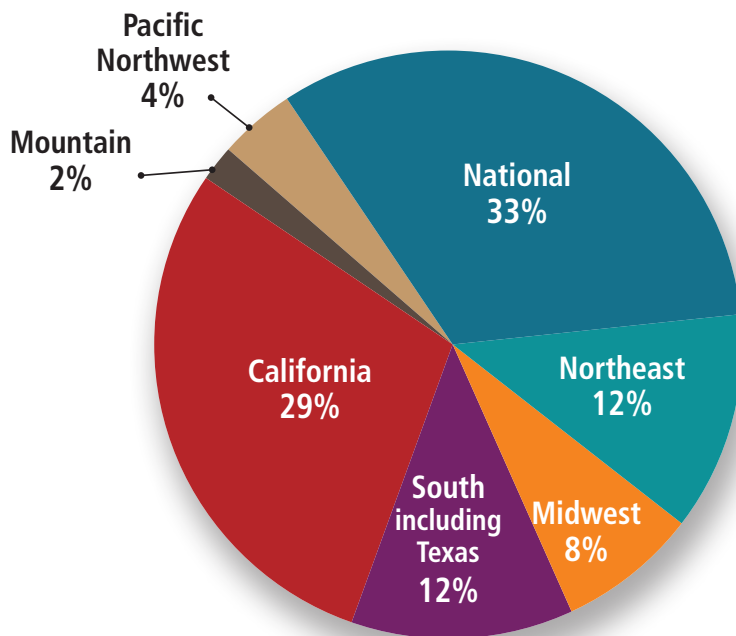
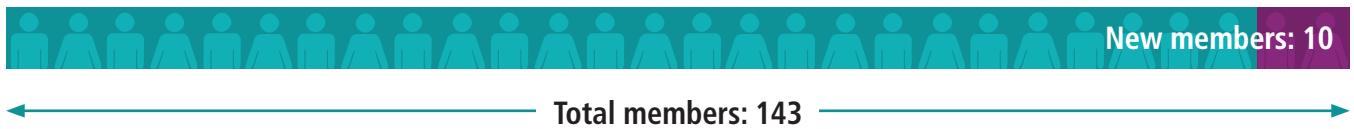
Anonymous
California Community Foundation
California Health Care Foundation
Crankstart
Dr. Bronner's Family Foundation
Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund
Fineshriber Family Foundation
Heising-Simons Foundation
Rosenberg Foundation
Rosenthal Family Foundation
San Francisco Foundation
Sunlight Giving
The California Endowment
The California Wellness Foundation
The Grove Foundation
The James Irvine Foundation

2021 PARTNERS

Beyond GCIR's programming and resources, our team members provided thought leadership through external advisory committees, working groups, and speaking engagements at conferences. We wish to thank the following philanthropy-supporting organizations for inviting us to share our expertise with their members and for partnering with us on programs.

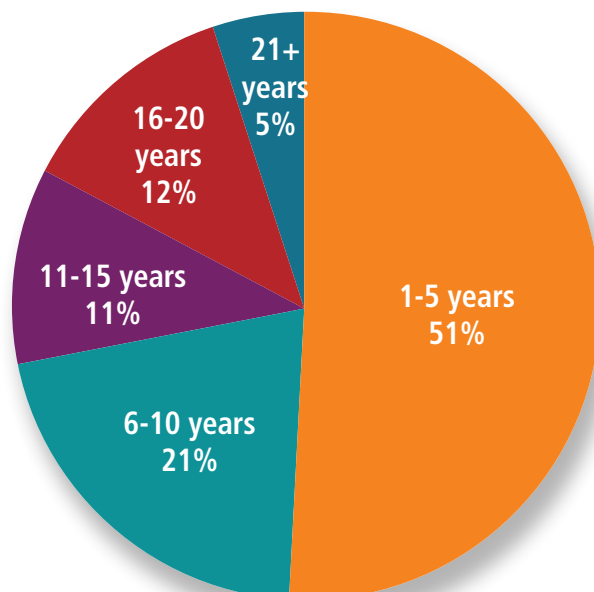
Arizona Grantmakers Forum
Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy
Catalyst of San Diego & Imperial Counties
Connecticut Council for Philanthropy
Council of New Jersey Grantmakers
Council on Foundations
Economic Opportunity Funders
Four Freedoms Fund
Funders' Collaborative on Youth Organizing
Funders' Committee for Civic Participation
Funders for Justice
Grantmakers Council of Rhode Island
Grantmakers in Health
Grantmakers in the Arts
Hispanics in Philanthropy
Iowa Council of Foundations
Maine Philanthropy Center
National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy
New York Funders Alliance
Northern California Grantmakers
Philanthropy New York
Philanthropy Northwest
RISE Together Fund
Southern California Grantmakers
Southeastern Council of Foundations
Southern California Grantmakers
United Philanthropy Forum
United Way of Rhode Island
Youth Engagement Fund

Number of Members in 2021



Membership by
Geographic Focus

Members by
Years of Membership



Co-chair & Executive Committee Co-chair

Amanda Cloud*
President & CEO
Simmons Foundation
Houston, TX

Co-chair & Executive Committee Co-chair

Angie Junck
Director, Human Rights Program
Heising-Simons Foundation
Los Altos, CA

Secretary

Kalia Abiade
Vice President of Programs
Pillars Fund
Chicago, IL

Treasurer

Carolyn Wang Kong
Chief Program Director
Blue Shield of California Foundation
San Francisco, CA

Dimple Abichandani

Executive Director
General Service Foundation
Berkeley, CA

Marco Antonio Quiroga

Program Director
Contigo Fund
Orlando, FL

Efrain Escobedo

Vice President, Education and
Immigration
California Community Foundation
Los Angeles, CA

Carlos Martinez

Executive Director
Latino Community Foundation
of Colorado
Denver, CO

Dominique Raymond

Strategy Director
Lumina Foundation
Indianapolis, IN

Laura Speer

Director, Strategy
The Annie E. Casey Foundation
Baltimore, MD

Vivian Tseng

Senior Vice President, Programs
William T. Grant Foundation
New York, NY

*As of the date of this publication,
Amanda Cloud has transitioned to a new
role as Chief Operating Officer at Stardust
in Houston, Texas.

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Management Coordinator

Emily Chavez Romero*

Summer DACA Intern

Kevin Douglas

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Communications and
Development Manager

Harmony Karp Hayes

Vice President of Operations

Angelica Laguna

Executive Coordinator

Cairo Mendes

Director of State and Local Programs

Melisa Montoya

Operations Coordinator

Melissa Nop*

Programs Associate

Ivy Suriyopas

Vice President of Programs

Marissa Tirona

President

Dianna Truong

Director of Communications
and Development

*As of the date of this publication,
these individuals have transitioned
off of GCIR's staff.



Above: American flag. *Photo: Ken Jones Licensed under CC BY 2.0*

Back cover: Activists and DACA recipients gathered at Foley Square in New York City during the "We are Undeniable" rally to demand citizenship for all. *Photo: Ryan Rahman/Shutterstock*

Graphic design: Axie Breen



GRANTMAKERS CONCERNED WITH
IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

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