



Pushing Back, Looking Forward

2019 Annual Report





Above: The “Where Are the Children?” project was a silent protest of the White House’s policy of separating migrant families crossing the Mexico border to seek refuge in the United States. Almost a thousand pairs of small pajamas were hung on clotheslines on the National Mall, representing children—including many under the age of four—taken from their parents. June 2019. Photo: Askoldsb / Dreamstime.com

Front cover: Protesters in San Francisco march to protest the Trump administration’s family separation and detention policy. Photo: www.eddie-hernandez.com

Letter from the President

Dear Colleagues:

In 2019, for the third consecutive year, the federal administration pursued its white nationalist agenda to halt and reverse demographic change in the United States, directly targeting immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers through inhumane policies and dehumanizing rhetoric.

In response, GCIR continued to provide timely updates and expert analysis, work with funders to develop rapid-response funding strategies, and provide multiple vehicles for coordinating and mobilizing philanthropic pushback. Our work spanned myriad issues, including public charge, family separation, border enforcement, detention and deportation, primary and secondary trauma, online hate, disaster relief, and housing, among others.

Alongside our defensive work, GCIR prioritized affirmative, forward-looking efforts. Our partnership with California funders on the 2020 census sought to ensure fairness in the allocation of federal resources and in political apportionment over the next decade, and our work on criminalization aimed to bring together immigrants and communities of color to advance shared goals.

We also began developing a case for long-term philanthropic commitment to funding immigration as a defining and cross-cutting issue of our time. As part of this process, we engaged more than 100 stakeholders from the field and philanthropy, analyzed funding trends, surveyed GCIR members across the country, and held scenario-planning workshops involving activists, strategists, and funders. We deepened our understanding of the challenges facing our country and global society, and generated ideas for advancing long-term, high-impact grantmaking in the immigration space. These efforts informed our thinking about how to support philanthropy in building a more just and equitable future, and we look forward to releasing our new immigrant-focused grantmaking framework.

2020 will be a pivotal year for the immigrant rights movement and for GCIR. The immigration policy outlook will be determined by one of the most consequential elections in our lifetimes, and GCIR will have new leadership to guide the next chapter of its work. With full support from our board of directors, the GCIR team stands ready to engage and mobilize members, funders, and allies in our shared quest for equity and justice.

Sincerely,



Daranee Petsod

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A mother and daughter, Honduran migrants seeking asylum from poverty and gang violence, rest at the Catholic Charities Respite Center in McAllen, Texas. April 2019. Photo: Vic Hinterlang / Shutterstock.com

IN 2019, GCIR continued to organize programs to keep philanthropy apprised of policies aimed at limiting immigrants' ability to enter, live, and thrive in the United States—and we did so in close partnership with colleague philanthropy-supporting organizations across the country.

The expansion of the “public charge” rule was a key focal point of our work given its vast chilling effect on low-income immigrants across the country. We also uplifted the plight of Central American and other asylum seekers, whose rights were decimated through policies that blocked their entry at our southern border, forced them to await their fate in Mexico, and indefinitely detained them under abhorrent conditions.

In addition to high-profile issues, GCIR also shined a spotlight on communities that were less visible to philanthropy, from black immigrants to Asian Pacific Islanders subject to detention and deportation. In uplifting both the short- and long-term policy implications, we helped funders see how they can address immediate crises and lay the groundwork for systems and structural change. Finally, we encouraged funders to use the full range of tools at their disposal, from asserting their leadership in the public sphere to divesting from immigrant detention.

Right: In April 2019, GCIR convened representatives from 37 immigrant-serving organizations—all grantees of The California Wellness Foundation and The James Irvine Foundation—to facilitate peer learning and information sharing around the unique challenges facing underserved regions of California.



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GCIR continued to uplift the plight of asylum seekers denied entry at our southern border and indefinitely detained under abhorrent conditions. Above: U.S. Border Patrol agents in El Paso detained 1,036 men, women, and children seeking refuge in the United States. May 2019. Photo: U.S. CBP

Connect

In these challenging times, our California Immigrant Integration Initiative (CIII) funder table and national Delivering on the Dream (DOTD) network provided critical forums for mutual support and peer learning. Through CIII and DOTD, funders received not only up-to-date information and technical assistance but also insights from one another on everything from how to move immigrant-related grantmaking within their institutions to strategies for putting in place participatory grantmaking models.

For CIII, this sense of community was enhanced by a day-long, in-person meeting in September as well as a learning lab on the immigrant detention system, both of which fostered deeper connections among the participants. Throughout the year, GCIR continued to expand relationships across California, particularly with funders in the border region. In addition, the CIII legal services working group commissioned an assessment of the legal services landscape in California to identify gaps, opportunities, and points of leverage for philanthropy. The report, *Immigration Legal Services in California: A Time for Bold Action*, will be published in February 2020.

By the end of 2019, DOTD included funding collaboratives in 19 states, engaging over 160 local, state, and national funders supporting more than 500 grantees. GCIR gathered DOTD members for a two-day retreat in June that provided space for shared learning on diversity, equity, and inclusion; network visioning in the context of the hostile policy environment; and peer-led sessions on topics such as effective funding strategies in rural and other underserved communities.



With support from GCIR, Firedoll Foundation, the Four Freedoms Fund, The Grove Foundation, and the Zellerbach Family Foundation, CIII funders gathered for an all-day learning lab in September 2019 to hear from advocates, organizers, and legal services providers, and to deepen their understanding of complex immigrant detention issues with the goal of resourcing the work in an informed and thoughtful way.



At a day-long retreat in September 2019, GCIR engaged CIII funders in envisioning the future for their communities and thinking about their funding from an affirmative stance.



In Orange County, California, the relationships GCIR has built with funders over the years have had a significant role in advancing immigrant integration.

As in years past, CIII and DOTD provided funders with strong infrastructure that allowed them to be on the leading edge of philanthropic responses to adverse policies and other crises. In 2019 alone, California funders moved \$101.7 million to address critical issues in the state with the largest immigrant population. And since its inception in 2012, DOTD funders have deployed approximately \$78 million in new funding in service of nearly 900,000 immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers in communities as diverse as Denver, Fort Myers, Houston, Los Angeles, and Nashville. As a complement to this rapid response work, GCIR also engaged CIII and DOTD funders in thinking about longer-term issues and approaching their funding from an affirmative stance, focusing on what they envision for their communities in addition to addressing urgent needs.

Finally, recognizing that long-term movement and field building will require all of us to deepen the connection between immigrant rights and other justice and equity issues, GCIR made a concerted effort this year to bring together diverse funders, facilitate strategic partnerships, and foster collaboration, particularly across issues, movements, grantmaking approaches, and theories of change.



Above and right: DOTD funders gathered for a two-day retreat in June 2019, where they engaged in peer learning to strengthen their work and envisioned the future direction of the network.



Since its inception in 2012, DOTD funders have deployed approximately \$78 million in new funding in communities as diverse as Denver, Fort Myers, Houston, Los Angeles, and Nashville.



THE theme of taking the long view extended into our work of mobilizing funder resources for the field. In 2019, GCIR continued to lead the California Census 2020 Statewide Funders' Initiative, which now includes over 80 members representing more than 55 community, private, and corporate foundations. These funders are coordinating efforts to maximize the participation of hard-to-count populations in the next census, ensuring fairness in the allocation of federal resources and in political apportionment over the next decade. In the process, they are also strengthening the movement infrastructure across the state, which in turn will improve opportunities and conditions for Californians who have been politically, economically, and socially marginalized.

GCIR interviewed community-based organizations, shared on-the-ground needs and gaps with funders, provided technical assistance on census grantmaking, and tracked census funding. We partnered with the California governor's office to coordinate public and private census efforts and with Philanthropy California to address regional needs and coordinate evaluation. As a result of these multi-stakeholder efforts, California funders have moved over \$26 million since 2016 to ensure a complete and accurate count in the 2020 census.



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Sponsored by a grant from Silicon Valley Community Foundation, GCIR facilitated a training in September 2019 on how North Bay philanthropic, community, and business leaders can engage in the 2020 census.

2019 Partners

We wish to thank the following philanthropy-supporting organizations for partnering with us on programs, inviting us to share our knowledge and expertise with their members, and joining us in speaking out for immigrant communities.

AAPIP (Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy)
ABFE: A Philanthropic Partnership for Black Communities
Africa Grantmakers' Affinity Group
American Constitution Society
Asset Funders Network
Association of Baltimore Area Grantmakers
Bay Area Democracy Funders
Bay Area Workforce Funders Collaborative
Berkeley Interdisciplinary Migration Initiative
California ChangeLaywers
Center for Disaster Philanthropy
CHANGE Philanthropy
Children, Youth & Family Funders Roundtable
CITRIS and the Banatao Institute
Confluence Philanthropy
Council of Michigan Foundations
Council on Foundations
Early Childhood Funders Collaborative
Economic Opportunity Funders
First 5 Association of California
Forefront
Freedom to Thrive
Funders for Justice
Funders for LGBTQ Issues
Funders for Reproductive Equity
Funders Together to End Homelessness
Funders' Committee for Civic Participation
Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities
Grantmakers in Health
GRANTMAKERS of Oregon and Southwest Washington
Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society
HANA Center
Hawaiian Community Assets
Hispanics in Philanthropy
Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative
Human Rights Funders Network
Institute on Assets and Social Policy
Justice Funders
Legal Services Funders Network
Media Democracy Fund
Mission Investors Exchange
National CAPACD (Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development)
National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy
National Skills Coalition
Neighborhood Funders Group
Nexus
Northern California Grantmakers
OneJustice
Orange County Grantmakers
Partnerships for Trauma Recovery
Peace and Security Funders Group
Philanthropic Initiative for Racial Equity
Philanthropy California
Philanthropy Colorado
Philanthropy Massachusetts
Philanthropy New York
Philanthropy Southwest
Pop Culture Collaborative
San Diego Grantmakers
Solidaire
Southeastern Council on Foundations
Southern California Grantmakers
Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems Funders
The D-Lab
The Democracy Fund Special Project on Fostering a Just and Inclusive Society, Institute of Governmental Studies, UC Berkeley
League of California Community Foundations
The Partnership for America's Children
The Sillerman Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy
United Philanthropy Forum
Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers
Women's Funding Network
Workforce Matters

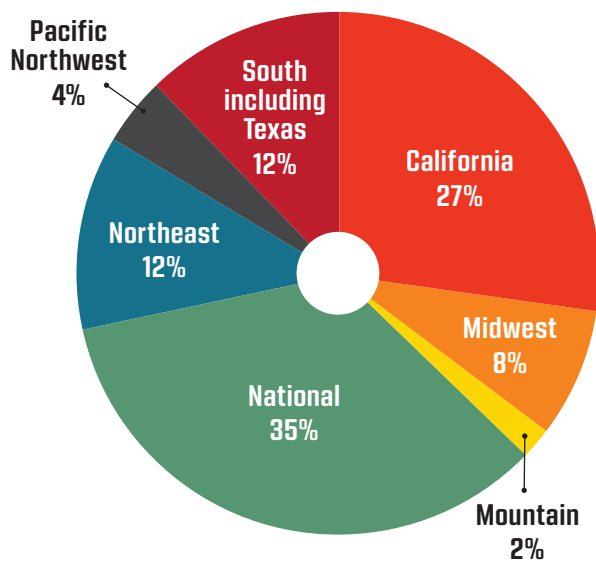
2019 Funders

GCIR is grateful to our funders for their support of programs, resources, and services that we provided to philanthropy in 2019.

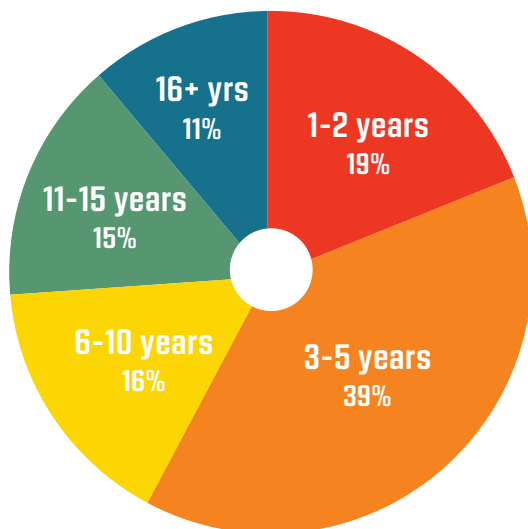
Anonymous
Blue Shield of California Foundation
California Community Foundation
Carnegie Corporation of New York
East Bay Community Foundation
Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund
Firedoll Foundation
Ford Foundation
Four Freedoms Fund/NEO Philanthropy
Heising-Simons Foundation
James and Gretchen Sandler Philanthropic Fund
Marin Community Foundation
Open Society Foundations
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
San Francisco Foundation
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Sobrato Family Foundation
The Annie E. Casey Foundation
The California Endowment
The California Wellness Foundation
The Global Whole Being Fund
The Grove Foundation
The J.M. Kaplan Fund
The James Irvine Foundation
The JPB Foundation
The New York Community Trust
Unbound Philanthropy
Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock
van Löben Sels/Rembe Rock Foundation
W.K. Kellogg Foundation
Weingart Foundation
Y & H Soda Foundation
Zegar Family Foundation
Zellerbach Family Foundation

2019 Membership

Membership by Geographic Focus



Years of Membership



Co-chair & Executive Committee Chair

James Gore

Senior Program Officer
Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation
Winston-Salem, NC

Co-chair & Governance Committee Chair

Efrain Escobedo

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

Secretary

Luna Yasui

Senior Program Officer
Civic Engagement and Government
Ford Foundation
New York, NY

Treasurer & Finance Committee Chair

Dina Merrell

Associate Director
The Chicago Bar Foundation
Chicago, IL

Audit Committee Chair

Robby Rodriguez

Program Officer
W.K. Kellogg Foundation
Albuquerque, NM

Kalia Abiade

Director of Programs
Pillars Fund
Chicago, IL

Dimple Abichandani

Executive Director
General Service Foundation
Berkeley, CA

Marco Antonio Quiroga

Program Director
Contigo Fund
Orlando, FL

Evan Bacalao

Program Officer
Special Initiatives & Partnerships
Open Society Foundations
New York, NY

Betty Balli Torres

Executive Director
Texas Access to Justice Foundation
Austin, TX

Amanda Cloud

President & CEO
Simmons Foundation
Houston, TX

Carlos Martinez

Executive Director
Latino Community Foundation
of Colorado
Denver, CO

Shawn Morehead

Vice President for Grants
The New York Community Trust
New York, NY

Laura Speer

Associate Director,
Policy Reform and Advocacy
The Annie E. Casey Foundation
Baltimore, MD

Vivian Tseng

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

Ted Wang

US Program Director
Unbound Philanthropy
New York, NY

2019 Staff

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Director of California Programs

Melissa Nop

National Programs Assistant

Daranee Petsod

President

Veera Sethuraman*

Development and
Communications Coordinator

Dianna Truong

Director of Communications and Development

*As of the date of this publication, these individuals have transitioned off of GCIR's staff. We remain deeply grateful for their service, dedication, and camaraderie.



In July 2019, several GCIR staff members participated in United Philanthropy Forum's annual conference, where they deepened relationships with peers and shared their expertise on a wide range of topics, including membership best practices, knowledge management, PSD policy and advocacy efforts, and the power of PSD partnerships.





Above: Families celebrating Fourth of July at a parade in Florida. Photo: Manny DaCunha



**Grantmakers Concerned with
Immigrants and Refugees**

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