RELIEF FOR NOW. RESILIENCE FOR THE FUTURE.
Dear Colleagues:

2020 was a year unlike any other in living memory. The fourth consecutive year of intensifying policy attacks on immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, as well as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities. A global pandemic. A surge in hate crimes against Asian Americans. Tragic murders of unarmed Black Americans at the hands of law enforcement. A national reckoning with centuries of systemic racism. Wildfires, hurricanes, and floods. Deepening economic, racial, and social inequities. An endangered census and rampant voter suppression in the lead-up to the most important election in modern history. Rising authoritarianism and imminent threats to our democracy.

In the face of these extraordinary challenges, GCIR leaned into our mission, vision, and values, taking swift action to address community needs and support the immigrant justice movement.

From DACA to public charge to efforts to expand legal services capacity, we kept funders informed of the latest developments affecting immigrant communities. At our 2020 National Convening in Atlanta, Georgia, we uplifted intersectional models of service delivery, advocacy, and organizing, as well as groundbreaking efforts by immigrant, BIPOC, and LGBTQI leaders.

Time and again, GCIR rallied philanthropy to act with urgency, courage, conviction, and hope. We mobilized funders to respond to the pandemic, protect the 2020 census, and develop post-election scenarios and strategies. As our country reckoned with the legacies of racism, we shined a spotlight on anti-Blackness in immigrant communities, elevated the immigrant justice movement’s efforts to center racial justice, and pushed for inclusion of immigration in philanthropic discussions on racism.

2020 marked GCIR’s 30th year of galvanizing philanthropy to address urgent humanitarian needs, respond to injustices, and affirmatively advance immigrant rights and inclusion. It also marked a significant leadership transition, as GCIR’s founding president, Daranee Petsod, stepped down from her post after leading the organization for 22 years.

As we look ahead, we are thrilled to have our new president Marissa Tirona at the helm. Under her visionary leadership, we will push philanthropic practice; provide a political home for GCIR members, funders, and allies; co-create platforms for funders and movement leaders; and facilitate strong public-private partnerships. We will build forward our critical role in the U.S. social justice ecosystem as a philanthropic mobilizing organization that moves money and power, and we look forward to engaging with you to build a society in which everyone thrives no matter where they were born.

In solidarity,
The GCIR Team
Our 30th Anniversary

GCIR commemorated our 30th anniversary with a comprehensive timeline highlighting immigrant and refugee policy developments, philanthropic responses, and our own organization’s evolution from our founding in 1990 to our cutting-edge work in 2020. GCIR’s priorities over these three decades reflected the volatile U.S. immigration policy environment—and the challenges and opportunities it presented for the immigrant justice movement. This timeline illustrates GCIR’s long and consistent history of impact, leveraging hundreds of millions in philanthropic funding to address issues affecting immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers.
Trusted Expertise in Volatile Times

In the ongoing climate of volatility and uncertainty, funders continued to rely on GCIR’S expertise to inform their grantmaking across a wide spectrum of issues. GCIR produced timely webinar briefings and information resources, often in collaboration with regional and national philanthropy-supporting organizations.

Drawing on knowledge and insights from field organizations, we also created funding recommendations to inform grantmaking in the context of the Supreme Court decision to preserve DACA and to address the immediate needs of immigrants and refugees impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Our year-long research resulted in the report Addressing Secondary Traumatic Stress (left) to guide funder support of grantee wellness and sustainability amid an epidemic of extreme stress and burnout among providers, organizers, and advocates.

Without adequate self-care and organizational support, secondary traumatic stress impacts not only the affected staff members, but also their clients, their families and friends, and their agencies.

—From Addressing Secondary Traumatic Stress

A long line of people wait outside a food pantry in Elmhurst, Queens. GCIR shined a spotlight on how the Covid-19 pandemic magnified the inequities that undocumented immigrants face. Concentrated in low-wage sectors hardest hit by the pandemic, immigrants who lost their jobs or saw reduced hours, particularly the undocumented, experienced extreme economic hardship. Photo: Massimo Giachetti / istockphoto
At a special anniversary event during GCIR’s 2020 National Convening, participants gathered at the National Center for Civil and Human Rights, where speakers from philanthropy and the field celebrated GCIR’s 30-year history, paid tribute to our outgoing president, Daranee Petsod, and looked ahead to our next chapter.

**GCIR’s National Convening in Atlanta**

Headlining GCIR’s 2020 National Convening, Stacey Abrams spoke to our theme of *Courage, Vision, Action*, uplifting the power of long-term multiracial organizing in fighting to ensure an accurate census count, fair elections, and a vibrant democracy. Georgia-based activists shed light on the challenges facing immigrants in the state as well as the advocacy and organizing work being done to effect systemic change. GCIR’s two-page infographic, *Georgia: Newcomers and Neighbors*, offered insights on the profile of immigrants in this changing Southern state. Convening speakers also included movement leaders from other parts of the South and other geographic regions, as well as those working at the national level. Throughout the two-and-a-half-day event, they uplifted the intersections between immigration, voter suppression, racism, movement building, and other equity and justice issues.

**GCIR’s Longstanding Funder Networks**

GCIR continued to convene our longstanding California Immigrant Integration Initiative (CIII) and Delivering on the Dream (DOTD) networks, which together reached more than 320 funders in 21 states. In addition to creating opportunities for peer learning and coordination, GCIR facilitated scenario planning with these networks to assess future threats and opportunities for immigrant communities; prepare and strategize for various possible 2020 election outcomes; and think through how best to support grantee organizations. We also released *Immigration Legal Services in California: A Time for Bold Action*, which assesses legal services capacity in the state and offers recommendations for strategic philanthropic investment.

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Coalitions can happen when we reach out beyond who we think we are, and we are willing to reach out to who we want to become.

—Stacey Abrams, GCIR 2020 National Convening
A Lifeline for Our Immigrant Neighbors

In April 2020, faced with an unprecedented public health and economic crisis, GCIR redoubled our commitment to our vision of a just and equitable society in which everyone thrives, no matter where they were born. Guided by this vision, GCIR set out to engage philanthropy in addressing the profound structural inequities magnified by the pandemic and its disproportionate impact on people of color, women, and other marginalized communities.

Within weeks of the Covid-19 public health crisis being declared a pandemic, GCIR launched the California Immigrant Resilience Fund (CIRF) to provide emergency relief to undocumented immigrants who were experiencing extreme economic hardship as a result of the pandemic but who were ineligible for federal relief and unemployment insurance. Within months, we raised over $50 million from over 70 institutional funders, nearly 40 major donors, and more than 800 individual online donors. Ultimately, we worked with 61 local partner organizations to provide one-time emergency cash assistance to more than 80,000 households across the state.

As a national organization, GCIR seeks to undertake bodies of work that have a reverberating impact. Created as a public-private partnership with the State of California, the first of its kind in the nation, CIRF sparked great interest in other states and localities. Our team provided consultation to stakeholders across the country and contributed to the establishment of similar funds in Colorado, Illinois, New Jersey, Oregon, and Washington.

While emergency cash assistance was—and continues to be—a lifeline to many undocumented workers and families, GCIR intended for CIRF to be a starting point. As such, we worked in alignment with movement organizations and engaged funders to push for longer-term solutions, including expanded state safety-net programs. We are heartened to report that the State of California expanded its Earned Income Tax Credit program to include undocumented tax filers and also created the Golden State Stimulus to support this and other low-income populations.
Solidarity with Immigrants and Allies
Rallying philanthropy to defend and affirm equity and justice remained a central part of GCIR’s strategy in 2020. We issued statements and calls to action on racial justice, the COVID-19 pandemic, the Supreme Court decision on DACA, and the 2020 Census.

Leadership on Census 2020
To ensure a fair and accurate census count in 2020, GCIR led the California Census 2020 Statewide Funders’ Initiative and worked with national partners, including the Funders Census Initiative of the Funders’ Committee for Civic Participation and the Democracy Funders Collaborative Census Subgroup. Together, we pushed back against efforts to undermine the constitutional mandate to count every person who calls this country home, advocating to exclude the citizenship question and include undocumented immigrants. GCIR is also coordinating the evaluation for the California statewide effort to capture the lessons and outcomes for future census efforts.

If we don’t have a census that tells the truth, the lie will last for a decade. And we won’t only lose economic power; we will lose political power.
—Stacey Abrams, GCIR 2020 National Convening
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Blue Shield of California Foundation
Carnegie Corporation of New York
Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund
Ford Foundation
Marin Community Foundation
Open Society Foundations
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
San Francisco Foundation
Silicon Valley Community 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
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

Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy
Catalyst of San Diego & Imperial Counties
Center for Disaster Philanthropy
Children, Youth & Family Funders Roundtable
CS Fund and Warsh • Mott Legacy
Early Childhood Funders Collaborative
Economic Opportunity Funders
EITC Funders Network
Four Freedoms Fund
Funders’ Committee for Civic Participation
Grantmakers in Health
Hispanics in Philanthropy
National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy (NCRP)
Philanthropy California
Philanthropy New York
Philanthropy Northwest
RISE Together Fund
Southeastern Council of Foundations
Southern California Grantmakers
United Philanthropy Forum
Workforce Matters
2020 MEMBERSHIP

Membership by Geographic Focus

- National: 35%
- California: 27%
- Northeast: 13%
- Midwest: 7%
- South including Texas: 12%
- Pacific Northwest: 4%
- Mountain: 2%

Years of Membership

- 0-2 years: 18%
- 3-5 years: 40%
- 6-10 years: 14%
- 11-15 years: 16%
- 16+ yrs: 12%
Efrain Escobedo
*Co-chair & Executive Committee Chair*
Vice President, Education, and Immigration
California Community Foundation
Los Angeles, CA

Shawn Morehead
*Co-chair & Governance Committee Chair*
Vice President for Grants
The New York Community Trust
New York, NY

Luna Yasui
*Secretary*
Senior Program Officer, Civic Engagement and Government
Ford Foundation
New York, NY

Dina Merrell
*Treasurer & Finance Committee Chair*
Associate Director
The Chicago Bar Foundation
Chicago, IL

Kalia Abiade
Director of Programs
Pillars Fund
Chicago, IL

Dimple Abichandani
*Search Committee Co-chair*
Executive Director
General Service Foundation
Berkeley, CA

Evan Bacalao
*Search Committee Co-chair*
Program Officer, Special Initiatives & Partnerships
Open Society Foundations
New York, NY

Amanda Cloud
President & CEO
Simmons Foundation
Houston, TX

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

Angie Junck
Director of Human Rights Program
Heising-Simons Foundation
San Francisco, CA

Carlos Martinez
Executive Director
Latino Community Foundation of Colorado
Denver, CO

Marco Antonio Quiroga
Program Director
Contigo Fund
Wilton Manors, FL

Dominique Raymond
*Audit Committee Chair*
Strategy Director
Lumina Foundation
Indianapolis, IN

Robby Rodriguez
Program Officer
W.K. Kellogg Foundation
Albuquerque, NM

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

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

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

Caleb Beaudoin
Membership and Knowledge Management Coordinator

Kevin Douglas
Director of National Programs

Sara Feldman
Communications and Development Manager

Harmony Karp Hayes
Vice President of Operations

Aryah Somers Landsberger*
Vice President of Programs

Stephanie Martinez*
California Programs Associate

Melisa Montoya
Operations Coordinator

Melissa Nop
Programs Associate

Daranee Petsod*
President (outgoing)

Marissa Tirona
President (incoming)

Dianna Truong
Director of Communications and Development

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