



# RELIEF FOR NOW. RESILIENCE FOR THE FUTURE.

2020 Annual Report | Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees



# INTRODUCTION

## 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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



Volunteers register Demand DC protesters to vote in Washington, D.C., near the National Museum of African American History and Culture. August 1, 2020. Photo: Alison C. Bailey / Shutterstock.com

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# 30 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE



## Our 30th Anniversary

GCIR commemorated our 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

Timeline

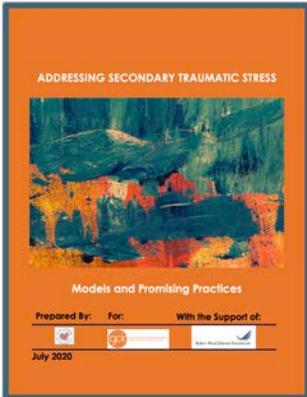


CENTRARISS CONCERNED WITH IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

<p><b>1990</b></p> <p><b>Immigrant and Refugee Policy Developments 1990-2020</b></p> <p>Throughout GCIR's 30-year history, immigrants and refugees in the U.S. and across the globe have faced a volatile policy environment that has been alternately welcoming and hostile, reflecting conflicting interests of who we are and want to be as a society.</p>	<p><b>1991</b></p> <p><b>CONGRESS PASSES IMMIGRATION ACT OF 1990</b></p> <p>Building on HCA passed in 1986 under the Reagan administration, this law authorized the U.S. Coast Guard to intercept unauthorized immigrants from across publicly funded services and mandated all local law enforcement agencies to report them to federal immigration authorities.</p>	<p><b>1992</b></p> <p><b>THE HAITIAN REFUGEE CRISIS EMERGES</b></p> <p>A military coup forces 200,000 Haitians to flee their country. The U.S. Coast Guard intercepts unauthorized immigrants from across publicly funded services and mandates all local law enforcement agencies to report them to federal immigration authorities.</p>	<p><b>1994</b></p> <p><b>CALIFORNIA VOTERS APPROVE PROP. 387</b></p> <p>Driven by anti-immigrant sentiment, this ballot initiative prohibits unauthorized immigrants from accessing publicly funded services and mandates all local law enforcement agencies to report them to federal immigration authorities.</p>	<p><b>1995</b></p> <p><b>IMMIGRANTS CONTINUE TO RISK</b></p> <p>Federal welfare, immigration, and social security reform bills that would strip benefits from unauthorized immigrants and further expand employment verification requirements.</p>	<p><b>1996</b></p> <p><b>EMMA LAZARUS FUND CREATED</b></p> <p>George Soros creates the Emma Lazarus Fund of the Open Society Foundations, committing \$10 million to address the disproportionate impact of immigration and refugees.</p>	<p><b>1997</b></p> <p><b>IMMIGRANTS' ADVOCACY FORCES POLICY CHANGE</b></p> <p>Congress restores Food Stamps and Supplemental Security Income to unauthorized immigrants and provides funding for immigrant victims of trafficking and other forms of violence.</p>	<p><b>2000</b></p> <p><b>9/11 ATTACKS SPUR RESTRICTIVE LAWS</b></p> <p>Congress passes Homeland Security Measures, which require all immigrants to be fingerprinted, fingerprinting, Florida signs an executive order mandating agreement to cooperate with federal immigration authorities in obtaining information to identify unauthorized workers.</p>
<p><b>1990-2020</b></p> <p><b>Philanthropic Response to Immigrants and Refugees 1990-2020</b></p> <p>For the past 30 years, GCIR, along with our members and funding partners, has mounted a wide range of efforts to advance immigrant justice and belonging, and create a society in which everyone thrives no matter where they may be born.</p>	<p><b>1990-2020</b></p> <p><b>GCIR FOUNDED TO INFORM AND CATALYZE PHILANTHROPY</b></p> <p>Many philanthropists, then called "volunteers," support immigrant and refugee issues locally and nationally. Founding members include Joyce Martz Gilmore, Michael J. Block, and the New York Community Trust, and Rosenburg Foundation.</p>	<p><b>1991</b></p> <p><b>FUNDER EDUCATION BEGINS</b></p> <p>GCIR holds first conference and influences the Council on Immigrant and Refugee Education, the first annual conference.</p>	<p><b>1992</b></p> <p><b>MEMBERS STEP UP PROGRAMMING</b></p> <p>GCIR members organize and influence the Council on Immigrant and Refugee Education, the first annual conference.</p>	<p><b>1994</b></p> <p><b>JOYCE FOUNDATION LAUNCHES CITIZENSHIP FUNDING INITIATIVE</b></p> <p>The Joyce Foundation, based in Chicago, underwrites a special project to support citizenship training and public affairs programs for eligible immigrants.</p>	<p><b>1995</b></p> <p><b>GCIR PARTNERS ON PROP. 387 AND EXPANDS PROGRAMMING</b></p> <p>GCIR, supported by the Open Society Foundations, in Philadelphia, and Asian American Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy, publishes a report titled "Breaking Out of Isolation: Challenges to Citizenship and Prop. 387."</p>	<p><b>1996</b></p> <p><b>EMMA LAZARUS FUND CREATES THE OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATION'S PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAM</b></p> <p>The Emma Lazarus Fund of the Open Society Foundations, committed \$10 million to address the disproportionate impact of immigration and refugees.</p>	<p><b>2000</b></p> <p><b>9/11 ATTACKS SPUR RESTRICTIVE LAWS</b></p> <p>Congress passes Homeland Security Measures, which require all immigrants to be fingerprinted, fingerprinting, Florida signs an executive order mandating agreement to cooperate with federal immigration authorities in obtaining information to identify unauthorized workers.</p>
<p><b>2006</b></p> <p><b>RESISTANCE, REFORM, AND ENFORCEMENT</b></p> <p>Historic number of arrivals of immigrants and their allies across the U.S. Congress without hearing public backlogs. ICE sends more than 20,000 people per day and deporting 40,000 that year.</p>	<p><b>2007</b></p> <p><b>IMMIGRANT REFORM STALLS AGAIN, STEPS UP</b></p> <p>Another major push for federal immigration reform fails, and state legislatures pass a similar second comprehensive bill. ICE sends more than 20,000 people per day and deporting 40,000 that year.</p>	<p><b>2008</b></p> <p><b>IMMIGRANT REFORM STALLS AGAIN, STEPS UP</b></p> <p>Another major push for federal immigration reform fails, and state legislatures pass a similar second comprehensive bill. ICE sends more than 20,000 people per day and deporting 40,000 that year.</p>	<p><b>2009</b></p> <p><b>HIGHPOINT ENFORCES IMMIGRANT ACT FOR REFORM</b></p> <p>Immigration authorities begin conducting enforcement actions against unauthorized immigrants. ICE sends more than 20,000 people per day and deporting 40,000 that year.</p>	<p><b>2010</b></p> <p><b>ACTIVISTS PROTEST AGAINST POLICIES</b></p> <p>Conservative activists organize rallies and marches to protest a record 40,000 deportations. ICE sends more than 20,000 people per day and deporting 40,000 that year.</p>	<p><b>2011</b></p> <p><b>DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS (DACA) IS ANNOUNCED</b></p> <p>After the DREAM Act fails in Congress, President Obama announces DACA, which grants two-year renewable work permits and protection from deportation to eligible unauthorized immigrants. ICE sends more than 20,000 people per day and deporting 40,000 that year.</p>	<p><b>2012</b></p> <p><b>SEK REFUGE IN THE U.S.</b></p> <p>Unauthorized children and families fleeing violence and persecution in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras are granted deferred action in the U.S. ICE sends more than 20,000 people per day and deporting 40,000 that year.</p>	<p><b>2013</b></p> <p><b>MILLIONS OF IMMIGRANTS DENIED RELIEF</b></p> <p>A divided Supreme Court bases a 5-4 ruling on a narrow majority of immigrants—mostly from the U.S. and Mexico—who are denied relief from deportation. ICE sends more than 20,000 people per day and deporting 40,000 that year.</p>
<p><b>2014</b></p> <p><b>PHILANTHROPY MOVES RAPID RESPONSE TO AID CENTRAL AMERICAN CHILDREN</b></p> <p>The California Endowment partners with local partners with critical support to develop leadership. ICE sends more than 20,000 people per day and deporting 40,000 that year.</p>	<p><b>2015</b></p> <p><b>EXPANDED IMMIGRATION RELIEF ANNOUNCED</b></p> <p>The Obama administration announces expansion of DACA and a new program, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). ICE sends more than 20,000 people per day and deporting 40,000 that year.</p>	<p><b>2016</b></p> <p><b>MILLIONS OF IMMIGRANTS DENIED RELIEF</b></p> <p>A divided Supreme Court bases a 5-4 ruling on a narrow majority of immigrants—mostly from the U.S. and Mexico—who are denied relief from deportation. ICE sends more than 20,000 people per day and deporting 40,000 that year.</p>	<p><b>2017</b></p> <p><b>JANIS IMMIGRANT OUTLOOK AND PUBLIC POSITIONS STATEMENT</b></p> <p>In a flurry of executive orders and administrative actions, President Trump issues the Wall in Asia, the wall in Europe, and the wall in Africa. ICE sends more than 20,000 people per day and deporting 40,000 that year.</p>	<p><b>2018</b></p> <p><b>CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OF IMMIGRANTS FIGHT CROSSHAIRS</b></p> <p>The Trump administration announces a new program, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). ICE sends more than 20,000 people per day and deporting 40,000 that year.</p>	<p><b>2019</b></p> <p><b>THE FIELD AND THE COMMUNITY PUSH BACK</b></p> <p>The Trump administration announces a new program, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). ICE sends more than 20,000 people per day and deporting 40,000 that year.</p>	<p><b>2020</b></p> <p><b>ATTACKS ON ALL FORMS OF IMMIGRATION CONTINUE</b></p> <p>The Trump administration announces a new program, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). ICE sends more than 20,000 people per day and deporting 40,000 that year.</p>	

## 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.



**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



## California Immigrant Resilience Fund

Supporting our immigrant neighbors

### 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.

Below: Recipients of emergency cash assistance. With the launch of the California Immigrant Resilience Fund, GCIR extended a lifeline to undocumented workers and families during the pandemic, partnering with 61 local organizations to provide over \$50 million in emergency cash assistance to more than 80,000 households across California.



Photo: CIELO, Jon Endow Photography



Photo: CIELO, Jon Endow Photography



Photo: Alliance San Diego

Photo: Alliance San Diego

May 13, 2020  
 Dear Alliance San Diego  
 I wanted to thank you  
 for the check of 500 dls  
 you sent to our home,  
 due to covid-19 we were  
 desperate for not knowing  
 how rent would be paid.  
 by receiving this funds  
 my family can have enough  
 to eat and prevent from  
 becoming homeless  
 Thanks to Patricia that  
 she went out of her way  
 to make sure the money  
 was hand it out.

## 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.



GCIR condemned racism and racial violence, standing in solidarity with the movement for Black lives as an ally in the fight for racial justice. *Photo: Damien Storan / Shutterstock*



Census drive in Harlem. GCIR continued to lead the California Census 2020 Statewide Funders' Initiative and mobilized support for on-the-ground efforts to achieve an accurate census count in the face of myriad policy and pandemic setbacks. *Photo: lev radin / Shutterstock*

**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

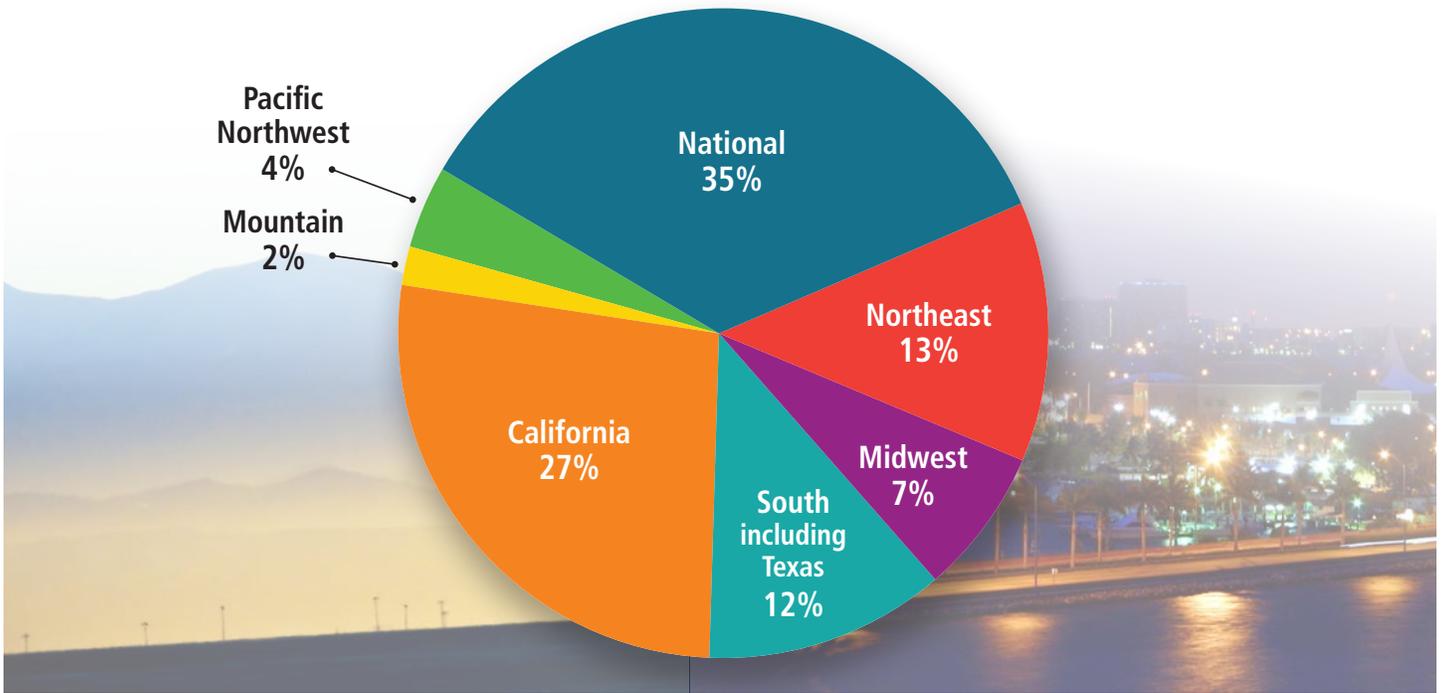
## 2020 FUNDERS

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

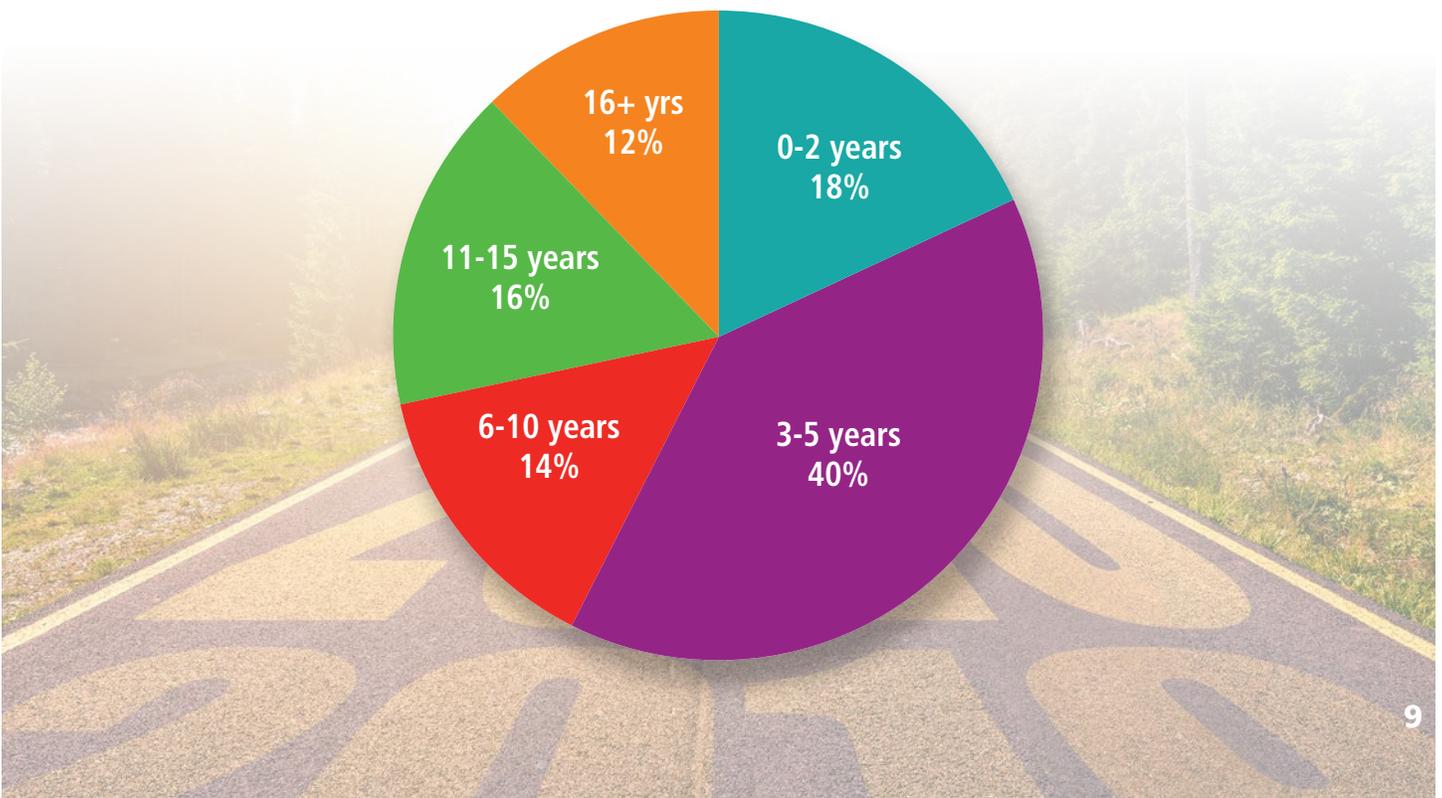
## 2020 PARTNERS

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

## Membership by Geographic Focus



## Years of Membership



**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**

Strategy Director  
 Lumina Foundation  
 Indianapolis, IN

**Robby Rodriguez**

**Audit Committee Chair**  
 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



The GCIR team embodying our spirit animal superpowers at the 2020 National Convening.

**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.



## **Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees**

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[www.gcir.org](http://www.gcir.org)

Front cover photo credits: Census drive in Harlem. *Photo: lev radin / Shutterstock*; People wait outside a food pantry in Elmhurst, Queens. *Photo: Massimo Giachetti / istockphoto*; May Day march in Los Angeles. *Photo: anouchka / istockphoto.com*; Volunteers register Demand DC protesters to vote. *Photo: Alison C. Bailey / Shutterstock.com*; Black Lives Matter protest. *Photo: Damien Storan / Shutterstock*.  
Collage/graphic design: Axie Breen