### Philanthropic Response to Immigrants and Refugees 1990–2020

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 were born.

### GCIR Founded to Inform and Catalyze Philanthropy

Mary McClymont, then at the Ford Foundation, organizes GCIR to increase philanthropic support of immigrant and refugee issues locally and nationally. Ford Foundation, J. Roderick MacArthur Foundation, Joyce Mertz Gilmore Foundation, The New York Community Trust, and Rosenberg Foundation are founding members.

### Funder Education Begins

GCIR holds first conference and influences the Council on Foundations to include immigrant-related sessions at its annual conference.

### Members Step Up Programming

GCIR members organize a funder briefing on the Haitian refugee crisis, produce first newsletter on immigrant-specific grantmaking, and publish first report, “Newcomers in America,” informing philanthropy about rapidly changing demographics.

### Joyce Foundation Launches Citizenship Funding Initiative

The Joyce Foundation, based in Chicago, undertakes a special project to promote naturalization for eligible immigrants.

### GCIR Partners on Prop. 187 Report and Expands Programming

GCIR, Hispanics in Philanthropy, and Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy co-publish “Reweaving Our Social Fabric: Challenges to Grantmaking after Proposition 187.” Programming expands to address immigration backlash, legal needs, and issues facing immigrant and refugee women and girls.

### Emma Lazarus Fund Created

George Soros creates the Emma Lazarus Fund at the Open Society Institute, committing $50 million to address the disproportionate impact of welfare reform on immigrants and refugees.

### Irvine Foundation Launches Central Valley Partnership

The James Irvine Foundation would invest more than $19 million over ten years to promote naturalization and civic engagement among immigrants and refugees in California’s Central Valley.

### Immigrant Rights Continue to Erode

Federal welfare, immigration, and anti-terrorism laws fray the social safety net for immigrants and refugees; toughen immigration enforcement by enlisting cooperation of local police forces; and further expand employment verification procedures.

### Immigrant and Refugee Policy Developments 1990–2020

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 alternately welcomed and hostile, reflecting conflicting visions of who we are and want to be as a society.

### Congress Passes Immigration Act of 1990

Building on IRCA passed in 1986 under the Reagan administration, this law increases the overall number of immigrants authorized to enter the U.S., creates a more efficient naturalization process, and expands resources for border enforcement.

### The Haitian Refugee Crisis Emerges

A military coup forces 200,000 Haitians to flee their country. The U.S. Coast Guard intercepts thousands, and the U.S. Naval Base in Guantanamo Bay is used to screen Haitian asylum seekers.

### California Voters Approve Prop. 187

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.

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**IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION TOOLKIT RELEASED**

“The Immigrant Integration Toolkit,” which debuts at GCIR’s national convening in Denver, would become highly influential, shaping and elevating immigrant integration within philanthropy and driving hundreds of millions in grantmaking in the years to come. The toolkit would become the most downloaded GCIR toolkit would become the most downloaded GCIR tool in the years to come. The toolkit would become the most downloaded GCIR tool in the years to come.

**IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION BECOMES DRIVING FORCE**

GCIR programming in Minnesota, Georgia, Arizona, New Hampshire, and Washington focuses on integration. California GCIR members form the California Immigrant Integration Initiative (CI3) to share information and coordinate funding strategies across the state.

Over the next 13 years, CI3 would provide the infrastructure for California funders to be on the leading edge of philanthropic responses. Between 2016 and 2019 alone, CI3 would help deploy approximately $323 million to address critical issues in the state with the largest immigrant population.

**IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION MOMENT CONTINUES**

The Silicon Valley Community Foundation awards nearly $2.4 million through its new immigrant integration initiatives and would continue innovative funding in the field in the years to come.

**FOUR FREEDOMS FUND ACKNOWLEDGED**

Taryn Higashi of Unbound Philanthropy and Geri Mannion of the Carnegie Corporation of New York receive the Robert W. Scrivner Award for founding the Four Freedoms Fund.

With the prize money, they establish the Freedom from Fear Awards.

**CALIFORNIA COUNTS!**

GCIR members invest more than $10 million to support 2010 Census outreach in California. GCIR coordinates philanthropic support of this statewide census campaign and releases a companion evaluation report and funders’ guide.

**NEW AMERICANS CAMPAIGN (NAC) LAUNCHED**

The Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Colorado Foundation, the Evelyn & Walter Haas, Jr. Fund, the JPB Foundation, and Knight Foundation—in partnership with 20+ local foundations—raise $125 million to support naturalization in 18 sites.

In its first five years, NAC would help 199,000 immigrants naturalize and would save low-income immigrants $172 million in legal services and application fees.

**DELIVERING ON THE DREAM (DODT) FORMED**

DOTD forms to support DACA implementation. By the end of 2019, the network would grow to 19 states. More than 160 local, state, and national funders would commit $78 million to build local capacity for defensive and affirmative legal services, advocacy and organizing, and other key interventions, from meeting health needs to developing leadership.

These resources would allow more than 500 grantee organizations to serve nearly 800,000 immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers in communities as diverse as Denver, Fort Myers, Houston, Los Angeles, and Nashville. In early 2020, this network would expand to 21 states.

**PHILANTHROPY MOUNTS RAPID RESPONSE TO AID CENTRAL AMERICAN CHILDREN**

The California Endowment makes a lead grant and partners with Unvision on the “Estamos con los Niños” campaign to raise awareness and funding for this humanitarian crisis.

With information, technical assistance, and coordination from GCIR, funders across the country make nearly $6 million in emergency grants to provide legal, social, health, and mental health services to unaccompanied children seeking refuge in the U.S.
The Obama administration announces expansion of DACA and a new program, Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA).

DOE'S DEBTIVELY DIVIDED ON IMMIGRATION

Texas and 26 other states sue to prevent implementation of DAPA and DACA+. Twenty states or state university systems have laws or policies that allow eligible unauthorized immigrants to pay in-state tuition. A California judge finds family detention centers housing Central American asylum seekers violate the rights of children and orders their release into community-based settings. Amid concerns over terrorism and rising xenophobia and Islamophobia, presidential debates and public discourse on immigration turn vitriolic.

EXPANDED IMMIGRATION RELIEF ANNOUNCED

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EMMA LAZARUS II ESTABLISHED

The Open Society Foundations launches the Emma Lazarus II Fund to help eligible immigrants apply for DACA, DAPA, and DAPA, and to building long-term immigration legal services infrastructure. By early 2016, this two-year initiative would deploy $9 million and leverage approximately $23 million from state and local funders, including the DOTD funding collaboratives, to support service delivery and build capacity in 16 states.

PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT FOR IMMIGRATION REMAINS STRONG

Funders discuss strategies for addressing rising xenophobia, Islamophobia, and the growing global refugee crisis. Planning focuses on possible DACA+ and DAPA implementation and how to support local and other services to immigrants and refugees as the long term. GCIR’s new strategic plan seeks to advance immigrant rights, economic justice and integration, and civic integration—as well as address unanticipated issues that may emerge.

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MILLIONS OF IMMIGRANTS DENIED RELIEF

A divided Supreme Court leaves in place a lower-court ruling blocking DAPA and DACA+, denying millions of immigrants—including mostly parents of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents, work authorization and protection from deportation.

DONALD J. TRUMP ELECTED AS PRESIDENT

Donald Trump narrowly wins the election after a campaign marked by hateful and racist anti-immigrant rhetoric and policy proposals.

ANTI-IMMIGRANT ONSLAUGHT BEGINS

In a flurry of executive orders and administrative actions, President Trump issues the Muslim Ban; ramps up interior and border enforcement, institutes “extreme vetting” of refugees and U.S. visitors; and slashes refugee admissions by more than half.

EVERY POLICY LEVER PULLED

The Trump administration also rescinds DAPA and DACA+, terminates DACA, extends Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Sudanese, Nicaraguan, and Haitian immigrants, and threatens to withhold law enforcement grants to 29 “sanctuary jurisdictions.”

ATTACKS INTENSIFY

The Trump administration introduces an administratively invalidated “public charge” rule, proposes a citizenship question for the 2020 census, makes naturalization more difficult to attain, including for service members, sharply reduces access to justice within the immigration system, eliminates protections for asylum seekers, and takes away TPS from Salvadorans, Hondurans, and Nepalis, among numerous other restrictive policies.

THE FIELD AND THE COMMUNITY PUSH BACK

Immigrant advocates win injunctions on DACA and TPS and issue advisories against the proposed “public charge” rule. At the ballot box, many anti-immigrant candidates and candidates win, including two Muslim women who are the first ever elected to Congress.

ATTACKS ON ALL FORMS OF IMMIGRATION CONTINUE

The list of countries with entry restrictions grows to 13, with the new additions disproportionately affecting Africa. Continued dismantling of the refugee and asylum systems is expected, as are further attacks on “sanctuary cities” and family-based immigration. The Supreme Court allows “public charge” implementation to proceed during litigation.

EMMA LAZARUS II STATEMENT

As the country heads into one of the most consequential elections in our lifetimes, the GCIR board and staff prepare the organization for new leadership and the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

GCIR TAKES STRONG PUBLIC POSITIONS

In response to inhumane, anti-immigrant policies and demonizing rhetoric, GCIR takes strong public positions, mounts aggressive rapid response, and rallies foundations to assert their public voice and direct significant funding to the field.

200+ SIGN JOINT STATEMENT

200+ foundations and PSOs sign GCIR’s joint statement to condemn anti-immigrant executive orders and stand with immigrants and refugees. Dozens of foundations, many new to immigration, allocate millions in new grants to address urgent needs.

GCIR IS FOUNDERS’ AFFINITY GROUP OF THE YEAR

Inside Philanthropy names GCIR the Funders’ Affinity Group of the Year for leading funders pushback to anti-immigrant policies.

$15 MILLION MOBILIZED FOR IMPACT OF FAMILY SEPARATION

With guidance from GCIR on funding needs and strategies, funders quickly mobilize more than $15 million to address the impact of the family separation policy.

GCIR UPLIFTS OVERLOOKED IMMIGRANTS

GCIR keeps funders informed of major policy developments and uplifts black, API, and MIAA immigrants, whose concerns are often overlooked. Uplifting foundations to divest from immigrant detention becomes part of the strategy.

FUNDING MORE THAN DOUBLES SINCE 2016

In California, total foundation funding for immigrant-related efforts more than doubles from $39 million in 2016 to an average of $94.3 million per year between 2017 and 2019. Total philanthropic support for the 2020 census exceeds $26 million over the same period, the largest investment of any state in the country.

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