

# Immigrants in Oregon and Washington

Creating an Inclusive and Dynamic Future for All

May 2014



GRANTMAKERS CONCERNED WITH  
IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

GRANTMAKERS  
*of Oregon and Southwest Washington*



## Glossary

**DREAMers** refers to immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children and who are intended beneficiaries of the federal legislation first introduced in the U.S. Senate on August 1, 2001, the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act or the DREAM Act. This bill would provide conditional permanent residency and an eventual path to citizenship for certain undocumented immigrants.

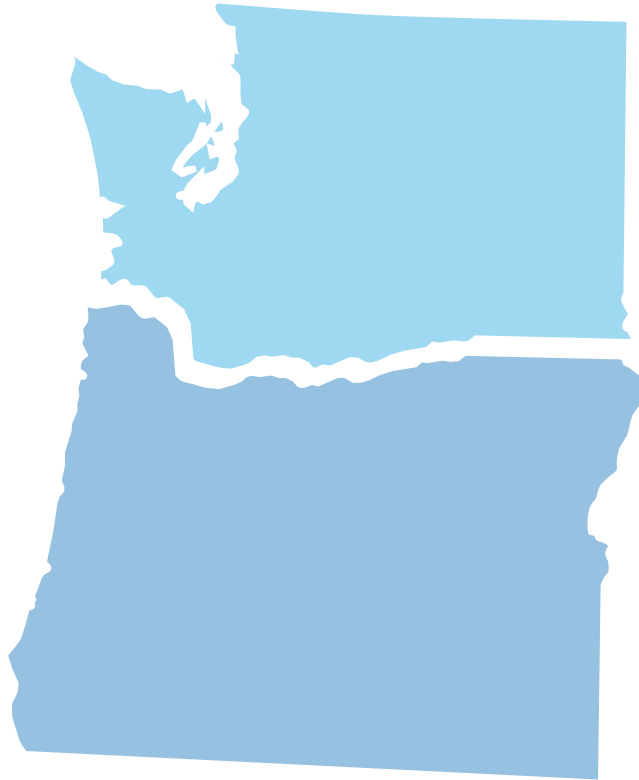
**Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)** is a policy directive that provides qualifying immigrant youth and young adults relief from deportation and work authorization for a two-year renewable period. Although DACA benefits a narrower pool of undocumented immigrants than the proposed DREAM legislation, the term DREAMers is used interchangeably with DACA beneficiaries as well as undocumented youth and young adults in this report.

**Immigrants** are persons born abroad who have come to settle in the United States—regardless of their immigration status or whether they have become U.S. citizens. The term is used interchangeably with **foreign-born**, which refers to persons who were not born as U.S. citizens. The term **newcomers** is also used as shorthand to refer to immigrants and refugees, although many are long-time residents.

**Lawful permanent residents (LPR)** are persons legally admitted to reside and work permanently in the United States. LPRs are commonly known as “green card” holders.

**Refugees** are persons admitted to the United States due to persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, membership in a social group, political opinion, or national origin.

**Undocumented immigrants** (used interchangeably with “unauthorized immigrants” in this report) are persons residing in the United States without legal immigration status; includes persons who entered without inspection and those who entered with a legal visa that is no longer valid.



## Acknowledgements

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Michael Kavate is the report’s primary researcher and writer. Felecia Bartow, Daranee Petsod, and Camellia Rodriguez-SackByrne constituted the editing and proofreading team, and Robyn Shuey of GRANTMAKERS served as a reviewer.

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Front cover: Grain fields in the Palouse region of southeastern Washington.  
Photo by Carolina K. Smith. Back cover: Crescent Beach at Ecola State Park,  
Oregon. Photo by Royce Bair.

Graphic design: [www.axiebreen.com](http://www.axiebreen.com)

# Introduction

Over the past two decades, the foreign-born population in Oregon and Washington State has nearly doubled. One in 10 Oregon residents and one in nine Washington residents are foreign-born.<sup>1</sup> Some estimates project immigrants could form nearly a fifth of the region's total population by 2030.<sup>2</sup> They have come from near and far: Mexico and Canada are among the leading countries of origin, but the Philippines, Vietnam, and China also top the list. Some immigrants have advanced degrees, while others have less than a high school education. Many start businesses, from ethnic restaurants and grocers to tech companies.

Washington and Oregon have not seen a comparable influx of newcomers in a century. The last major wave of immigrants began to arrive in the mid-1800s and crested by the early 1900s, as a push-pull combination of economic hardship and persecution at home and opportunity in America brought Chinese,<sup>3</sup> Japanese,<sup>4</sup> and Russian<sup>5</sup> settlers to the region. In the first decades of the 20th century, U.S. rule of the Philippines led to the arrival of many Filipinos, while domestic policy changes led many Japanese residents to leave Hawaii for the Pacific Northwest.<sup>6</sup> Smaller groups arrived from the Koreas, the Pacific Islands, and Southeast Asia throughout this period. Two major metropolitan areas—Seattle and Portland—received the bulk of these new residents. For example, in 1910, three out of every 10 residents in the greater Seattle region were immigrants.<sup>7</sup>

Migration to the Pacific Northwest slowed significantly during the middle part of the last century, with the exception of Vietnamese, Cambodian, and Laotian refugees who relocated to the region during and after the Vietnam War.<sup>8</sup> Yet as the 20th century drew to a close, the region's foreign-born population began to significantly expand.

The most recent arrivals have increased ethnic and racial diversity in a region that, despite its rich immigrant history, is relatively homogeneous. Gains have been particularly strong among the Latino and Asian populations, which have each tripled in size over the last three decades (as a share of their state's total population).<sup>9</sup> Today, Latinos and Asians constitute one in five Washington residents and one in six Oregonians.<sup>10</sup> Although their numbers are small, immigrants and refugees from destinations ranging from Ethiopia and Eritrea to Bosnia and Ukraine have also settled in the two states.

The influx of immigrants has sparked cultural, economic, and social dynamism, as much as it has created tensions. It also has an overarching impact on nearly every philanthropic priority—from education and health to workforce development and civic participation—particularly as newcomers and their children become a larger share of the region's population. Indeed, at least a fifth of all children in these two states are immigrants or children of immigrants.

**Foreign-born Population in Oregon and Washington**



Source: MPI tabulations of the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) and Decennial Census; 2012 data from the one-year ACS file.

**GCIR defines immigrant integration as a dynamic, two-way process in which newcomers and the receiving society work together to build secure, vibrant, and cohesive communities. We use "integration" instead of "assimilation" to emphasize respect for and incorporation of differences, the need for mutual adaptation, and an appreciation of diversity.**



# A portrait of Oregon and Washington's foreign-born population

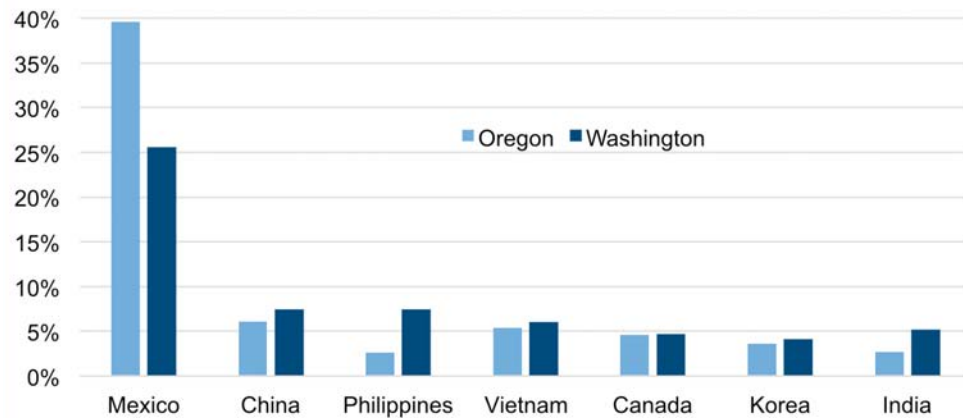
**"The talent of our immigrants and refugees is considerable and the challenges they face are unique. The City can — and should — play a role in helping them."**

**Ed Murray,  
Seattle Mayor<sup>11</sup>**

## Countries of Origin

Although the immigrant population in Oregon and Washington is diverse, Mexico accounts for more than a third of Oregon's foreign-born population and a quarter of Washington's.<sup>12</sup> More broadly, Latin America accounts for nearly half of all immigrants in Oregon and approximately a third in Washington.<sup>13</sup>

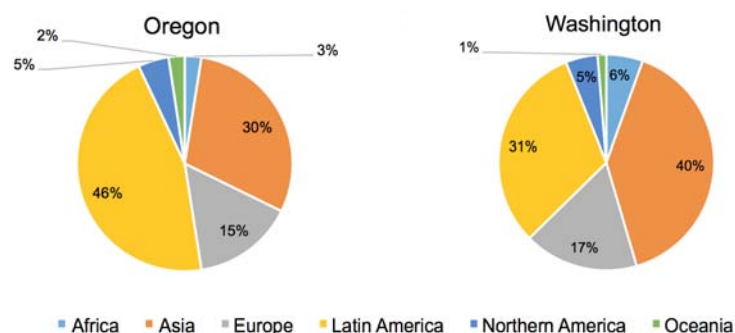
### Top Countries of Origin for Immigrants in Oregon and Washington<sup>14</sup>



Source: MPI tabulations of the U.S. Census Bureau's ACS and Decennial Census; 2012 data from the one-year ACS file.

Asia is the next biggest sending region. Washington receives large shares of its foreign-born population from the Philippines, China, Korea, and Vietnam.<sup>15</sup> Chinese and Vietnamese immigrants are among Oregon's largest non-Latino foreign-born populations. In both states, Canada ranks as one of the only major sending countries outside of Latin America and Asia. Both Oregon and Washington are also home to small but steadily growing communities from Africa and Eastern Europe, particularly Poland and Russia.<sup>16</sup>

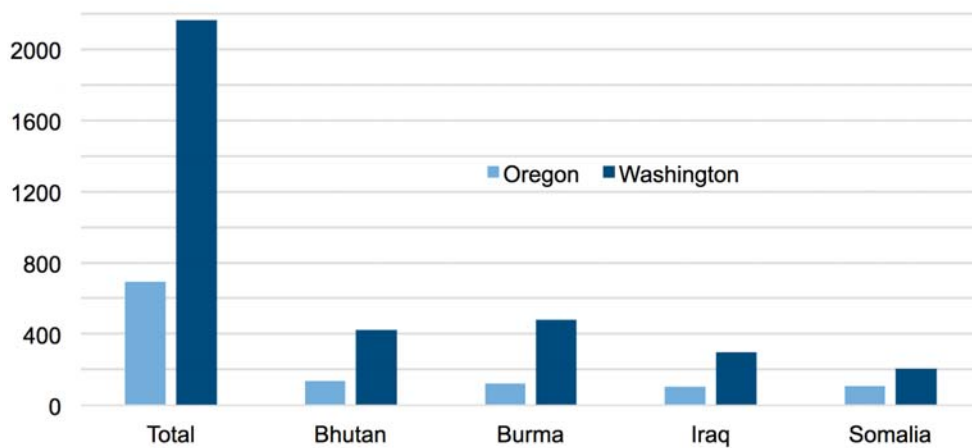
### Regions of Birth for Immigrants in Oregon and Washington<sup>17</sup>



Source: MPI tabulations of the U.S. Census Bureau's ACS and Decennial Census; 2012 data from the one-year ACS file.

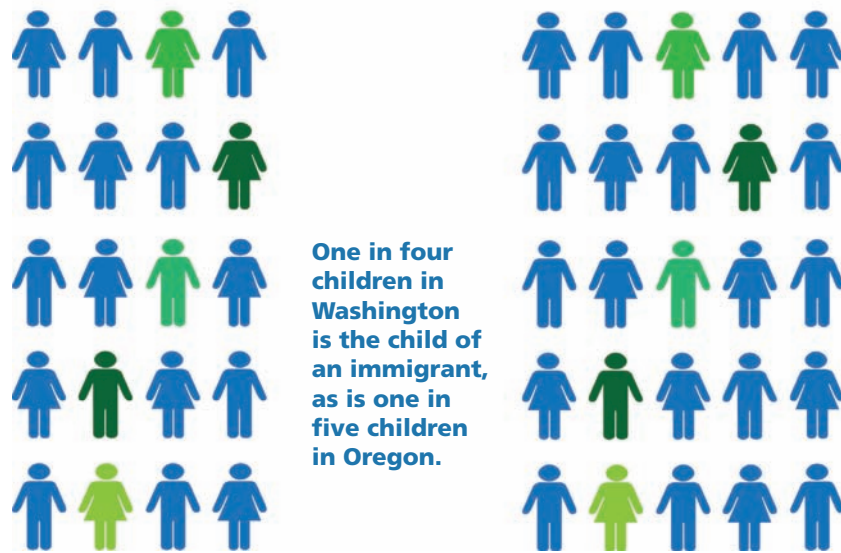
Washington and Oregon are home to relatively small but growing refugee populations. Per capita, the two states rank among the top recipients in the nation for refugees from Bhutan, Burma, Iraq, and Somalia. Washington frequently ranks among the top 10 refugee-receiving destinations in the country.<sup>18</sup>

#### Top Countries of Origin for Refugees in Oregon and Washington



Source: Fiscal Year 2012 Refugee Arrivals. (January 2013.) Office of the Administration for Children and Families: Office of Refugee Resettlement.





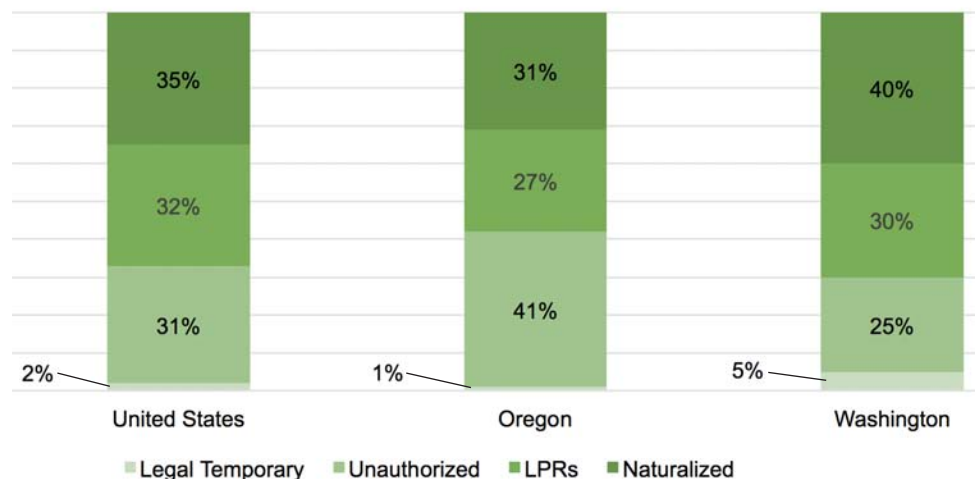
## Children, Youth, and Families

One in four children in Washington is the child of an immigrant, as is one in five children in Oregon.<sup>19</sup> Most are U.S.-born citizens and live in “mixed-status” families, with parents who are either legal residents or unauthorized immigrants. While U.S.-citizen children in these families have the same rights as other native-born Americans, the non-citizen adults have more limited rights and access to government services, particularly if they are unauthorized. As such, they may be wary about allowing their U.S.-citizen children to avail themselves of the vital services for which they are eligible.

## Immigration Status

The United States’ foreign-born population is split almost evenly between three groups: naturalized citizens, LPRs, and unauthorized immigrants. The composition is significantly different in Washington and Oregon, however. Naturalized citizens represent 40 percent of Washington’s foreign-born population versus 31 percent of Oregon’s.<sup>20</sup> In contrast, unauthorized immigrants make up 41 percent of Oregon’s foreign-born population but account for 25 percent of Washington’s.

## Differences in Legal Status of Foreign-born Population in Oregon and Washington



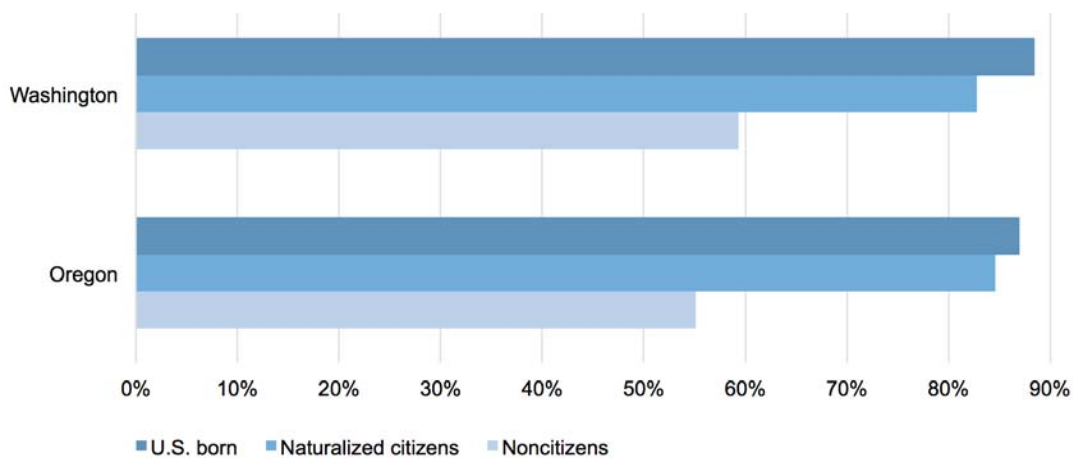
Source: MPI analysis of pooled Current Population Survey 2006 – 2008 data provided by Jeffrey Passel of the Pew Research Center’s Hispanic Trends Project



## Health

There are significant health disparities between the native-born and foreign-born communities in Oregon and Washington. In both states, close to nine out of every 10 U.S.-born residents<sup>21</sup> have health insurance, versus approximately seven out of 10 immigrants.<sup>22</sup> Among the unauthorized population, the gap widens: fewer than six in 10 undocumented immigrants in the two states are insured. Naturalized citizens, however, are nearly as likely as U.S.-born residents to have health coverage.

### Health Insurance Coverage Rates in Oregon and Washington<sup>23</sup>



Source: MPI tabulations of the U.S. Census Bureau's ACS and Decennial Census; 2012 data from the one-year ACS file.



**"Today we're allowing dreams to come true."**

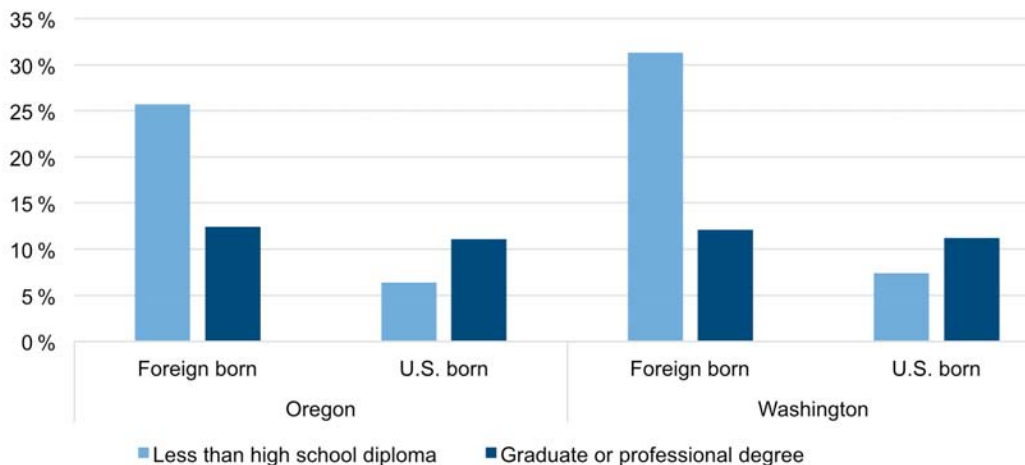
**Jay Inslee, Washington Governor, upon signing a bill granting in-state tuition rates to the state's undocumented students for the first time<sup>24</sup>**



## Education

Immigrants in Oregon and Washington have widely varying levels of education. Foreign-born residents are approximately four times more likely than native-born residents to lack a high school diploma, with one in four immigrants in Washington and nearly one in three in Oregon falling into that category.<sup>25</sup> At the same time, each state's immigrant population is also slightly more likely than their U.S.-born counterparts to have an advanced degree—due to a variety of factors, including U.S. visa policies<sup>26</sup> and cultural expectations.

### Immigrant Educational Attainment in Oregon and Washington



Source: MPI tabulations of the U.S. Census Bureau's ACS and Decennial Census; 2012 data from the one-year ACS file.

Immigrants and the children of immigrants are also filling an increasing number of seats in primary and secondary school classrooms in Oregon and Washington. In both states, English language learner (ELL) enrollment rose each year between 2000 and 2009, with increases during the final years of that period of 40 to 60 percent in both states annually.<sup>27</sup> These large gains came despite total school enrollment remaining flat in Oregon and rising no more than 10 percent in Washington. Most ELL students in both primary and secondary grades are native-born U.S. citizens.



# Immigrant contributions from backyards to boardrooms

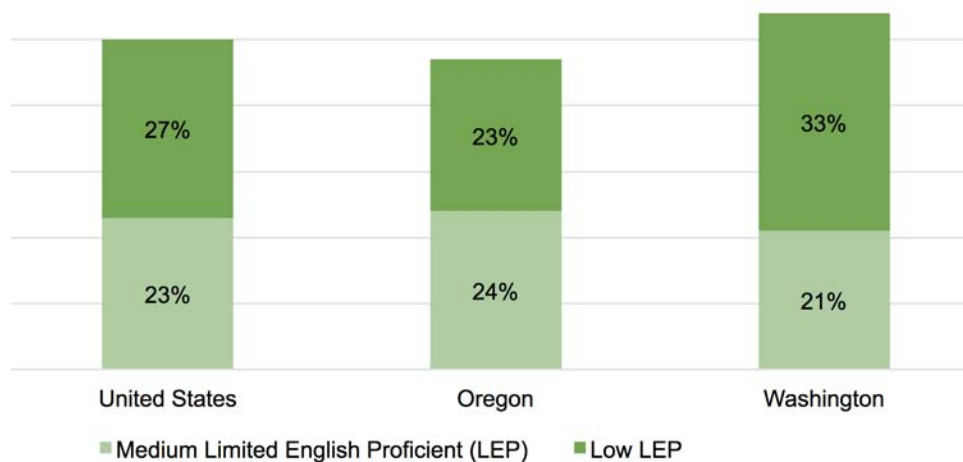
## Workforce

Immigrants are a dynamic economic force in Oregon and Washington. Some bus tables or build houses; others write code or perform surgery; still more work as teachers, nurses, and office staff. In each state, immigrants' share of the workforce exceeds their share of the overall population. While many hold middle-class jobs, their presence is concentrated at the two ends of the economic spectrum. For instance, immigrants account for no more than 15 percent of the workforce in either state, yet they represent half of all workers in Oregon and Washington with less than a high school diploma.<sup>28</sup> Many work in agriculture: farmworkers have been coming to rural Oregon and Washington from Mexico since the mid-twentieth century. Simultaneously, immigrants account for more than a third of Washington's computer software engineers and nearly a quarter of Oregon's, as well as large percentages of both states' computer scientists, postsecondary teachers, surgeons, architects, and engineers.

One in five college-educated immigrant workers in Oregon and Washington are employed in occupations categorized as "unskilled." This phenomenon, known as "brain waste," is particularly acute for immigrants from Latin America. Forty-two percent of college-educated immigrants from that region work in unskilled positions. Lack of English proficiency, differences in education and training, and reluctance among employers to hire applicants with unfamiliar or foreign qualifications account for the high number of skilled immigrants in low-wage jobs.<sup>29</sup>

In particular, language skills are frequently a determining factor in immigrants' ability to secure careers that match their skills and climb the economic ladder. Half of immigrant workers in the two states report that they speak English less than "very well"—and one-third of Oregon's foreign-born workforce report they speak English "not well or not at all."<sup>30</sup>

### English Proficiency of Foreign-born Population in Oregon and Washington<sup>31</sup>



Source: MPI analysis of 2009 ACS.

**"If we are to build an enduring prosperity in Oregon, we must ensure all Oregonians have an equal opportunity to contribute."**

**John Kitzhaber,  
Oregon Governor<sup>32</sup>**



"I was just recently at a local business, a company that makes granola bars. How Portland could that be? They're growing fast, they're hiring from the neighborhood, and the biggest challenge on the factory floor for them is communication, because they have so many different languages spoken among their workers. It's a great problem to have; they're working on finding lead workers who can also be translators. That's a strange and wonderful new territory for us at Portland."

*Charlie Hales,  
Portland Mayor<sup>33</sup>*



### Economic Impact

Immigrants power the region's economic engines not just as workers, but as entrepreneurs. Several of Oregon and Washington's largest and best-known businesses—Nordstrom, Costco Wholesale, and Amazon.com—have at least one founder who is an immigrant or a child of an immigrant. In 2010 alone, new immigrant business owners accounted for more than one in 10 dollars in net business income in the two states—a total of \$3.5 billion.<sup>34</sup> That same year, one in nine business owners in Oregon was foreign-born, as was one in seven in Washington.<sup>35</sup>

Oregon and Washington's unauthorized immigrants are no exception. In 2010, they paid more than \$425 million in state and local taxes.<sup>36</sup> At approximately \$1,077 per person, their annual contribution is greater than the per-capita amount either state received under the 2009 federal stimulus bill (\$621 in Oregon, \$961 in Washington).<sup>37</sup>

# A shifting landscape, a stake for families

## Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) has opened a world of opportunities for unauthorized immigrant youth and young adults, commonly known as “DREAMers.”<sup>38</sup> Launched in August 2012, the program grants temporary relief from deportation and work authorization, among other benefits, to immigrants who meet certain requirements and pay the necessary fees. DACA approval gives beneficiaries two-year, renewable work permits and a reprieve from deportation, setting them on a path toward a more stable future. Studies show many find new employment opportunities, open their first savings accounts, and earn driver’s licenses after receiving approval.<sup>39</sup>

From August 15, 2012 through the first quarter of 2014, nearly 22,000 immigrants in Oregon and Washington have applied for DACA, and the vast majority (over 85 percent) has been approved to date.<sup>40</sup> Yet there remains an estimated 36,000 undocumented youth and young adults in the two states (two-thirds reside in Washington) who are currently eligible to apply for DACA but have not yet done so.<sup>41</sup> Still more would qualify but for meeting the age or educational requirements,<sup>42</sup> the latter of which they can fulfill by enrolling in an education, literacy, or career-training program that leads to either a GED or placement in postsecondary education, job training, or employment.<sup>43</sup> Others cannot afford the \$465 application fee.

Efforts to extend DACA’s reach are underway, and support from the philanthropic community will help the region realize the program’s full promise. A group of Oregon funders formed a collaborative to support DACA implementation, and an initiative led by the National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions and GCIR is working to forge partnerships between credit unions and immigrant service providers to provide safe and affordable financial products to immigrants. By backing DACA implementation efforts—including outreach, screening, application assistance, and support for loan programs—grantmakers have a unique opportunity to help young immigrants stay in school, meet market and industry needs, access safe and affordable financial products and services, and improve economic outcomes for themselves and their families.

## Naturalization

Naturalization reaps both civic and economic benefits for immigrants as well as their families and communities. Naturalized citizens gain the right to vote and serve on juries. In addition, studies have shown that naturalized citizens earn eight to 11 percent more than noncitizens, even after adjusting for differences in education, language ability, and work experience.<sup>44</sup> Immigrants see their earnings rise within two years of acquiring U.S. citizenship, and their wages rise faster in subsequent years.<sup>45</sup> Naturalization has also shown to lead to immediate increases in immigrants’ representation in white-collar jobs.<sup>46</sup>

Nearly 365,000 immigrants in Oregon and Washington are currently eligible to naturalize. An estimated 255,000 LPRs live in Washington State, the ninth largest citizenship-eligible population in the nation, and approximately 110,000 live in Oregon.<sup>47</sup> Washington’s citizenship-eligible immigrants are an extremely diverse group, hailing from a similar mix of countries as the state’s overall foreign-born population: a quarter from Mexico and a fifth from Asian countries including China, Korea, the Philippines, and Vietnam, as well as a sizeable number from Canada.<sup>48,49</sup>



**“The immigrant and refugee community has a lot to offer, but participation is crucial. They historically haven’t been getting the attention and support they need, and they haven’t been reached out to by mainstream ‘get out the vote’ or voter education efforts.”**

**Kayse Jama, executive director of the Center for Intercultural Organizing<sup>50</sup>**



**“Our broken immigration system, which tears parents from children, traps aspiring Americans in the shadows, and undermines the best values of this nation, is morally indefensible.”**

***Statement  
by Thayne M.  
McCulloh, Gonzaga  
University president;  
Rev. Stephen  
V. Sundborg,  
Seattle University  
president; and more  
than 100 other  
Catholic university  
presidents<sup>51</sup>***

Philanthropy can play a pivotal role in promoting U.S. citizenship among eligible immigrants in Oregon and Washington. To help immigrants understand and navigate this complex process, funders can support a wide range of complementary programs and services, including outreach and education, legal services and application assistance, English language and civics classes, and financial assistance for application and documentation fees,<sup>52</sup> to name a few possibilities.

In addition, funders can support efforts to promote civic participation among immigrants, both citizens and non-citizens. Options range from organizing youth to combating ethnic and racial profiling to supporting and encouraging parents to attend PTA meetings or run for a school board seat.

### **Federal Immigration Reform**

The passage of federal immigration reform legislation—whether large scale or piecemeal—would have a transformative impact on the lives of the estimated 400,000 undocumented immigrants in Oregon and Washington.

If passed, legislation granting legal status and a possible road to citizenship to undocumented immigrants would help improve health, educational, and workforce opportunities for undocumented immigrants and boost the social and economic well-being of Oregon and Washington as a whole. However, immigration reform of any scale—or even the expansion of administrative programs such as DACA—would pose significant challenges for applicants. In particular, those who are low-income, minimally educated, and have limited English proficiency will need assistance to meet requirements related to documentation, education, language, and employment requirements, as well as paying any associated penalties and fees.

The need for various programs and services will far outweigh available resources, and philanthropic leadership will be crucial to achieving the promised benefits of reform. Funders in Oregon and Washington can begin preparing now by assessing the existing service capacity and assuring that the infrastructure exists to allow immigrants to take full advantage of any forthcoming policy opportunity.



# Funding the Future:

## Recommendations for grantmakers

Funders at the local, state, regional, and national level can make strategic investments that align with their funding priorities and reap substantial benefits for immigrants, refugees, and our broader society. The following recommendations offer philanthropy guidance in deploying available resources and leadership to address the needs and contributions of newcomers in Oregon and Washington.

- ◎ **Understand demographic shifts and trends.** Useful sources include the U.S. Census Bureau's American FactFinder website, think tanks such as MPI and Immigration Policy Center, and Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees' county-level data hub, *America's Immigrants*. Some funders may want to commission research reports tailored to meet their specific interests and priorities. Given the diversity of immigrants in Oregon and Washington, grantmakers may need to commission disaggregated data for certain subgroups, such as the various Asian and Pacific Islander communities, in order to make fully informed funding decisions. Community needs assessments can help funders map the assets and needs of the local immigrant population, identify existing service capacity, and determine funding gaps and opportunities. Recent examples include a report by the Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, *The State of Asian Pacific Islanders in Washington*, and an analysis by Pew Research Center's Hispanic Trends Project, *Demographic Profile of Hispanics in Oregon, 2011*.
- ◎ **Improve access to education and boost graduation rates** by funding programs that promote English proficiency and provide a wide range of educational supports and opportunities geared for children, youth, and adults in immigrant families. Additionally, funders can support efforts that expand and improve the quality of early-learning programs for low-income children of immigrants, as well as programs that engage immigrant parents in their children's education. For examples of effective programs, see a report prepared by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and GCIR, *The Vital Role of Community Colleges in the Education and Integration of Immigrants and Supporting English Language Acquisition: Opportunities for Foundations to Strengthen the Social and Economic Well-Being of Immigrant Families*.<sup>53</sup> In addition, consider the recommendations on improving immigrant education in a recent publication by MPI: *Shaping Our Futures: The Educational and Career Success of Washington State's Immigrant Youth*.
- ◎ **Invest in economic mobility and asset-building strategies** for immigrants, such as programs that improve English language and vocational skills, workforce success, financial literacy, and access to safe and affordable financial products and services, including low-cost loans for DACA and naturalization application fees. The *Northwest Area Immigrant Asset-Building Initiative* is one example of a new effort to expand economic opportunities for low-income immigrants and refugees in the region. Supported by the Northwest Area Foundation, the initiative is led by the National Federal of Community Development Credit Unions and GCIR and aims to build robust partnerships between credit unions and immigration service providers to connect immigrants to safe and affordable credit union products and services.<sup>54</sup>



**"Voter registration is the key to immigrant political participation."**

**Janelle Wong,**  
executive director  
of the Institute for  
Public Service at  
Seattle University<sup>55</sup>

**“Together we’re making the ballot more accessible to immigrants and refugees, who historically have the lowest voter registration rates in Oregon and nationwide.”**

**Kate Brown, Oregon Secretary of State, describing the New Americans Voter Project’s “truly groundbreaking” work<sup>56</sup>**

- ◎ **Improve health access and outcomes** for immigrants who are uninsured, do not qualify for coverage under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), or otherwise have limited access to health care. Funders can support safety net providers such as federally qualified health centers, community clinics, and public hospitals to provide care to uninsured immigrants. In light of ACA implementation, funders can also support multi-lingual, culturally competent community outreach, education, and assistance with enrollment, all of which are critical to increasing eligible immigrants’ access to health coverage.

One example of philanthropic support aimed at improving healthcare accessibility for immigrants on the margins is an initiative by Northwest Health Foundation, in partnership with other Oregon funders and cross-sector partners. This decade-long joint effort expanded an existing funding program to provide prenatal care to all women in Oregon, regardless of immigration status.

- ◎ **Support services to help eligible immigrants apply for DACA.** Investing in DACA can reap multiple dividends, from improving educational outcomes to strengthening the local workforce. Funding for outreach, legal services, application assistance, and loan funds can help eliminate barriers to accessing DACA’s substantial benefits. Funder leadership is crucial for DACA implementation. Following the announcement of DACA, a group of Oregon funders, coordinated by the Oregon Community Foundation, quickly assembled to support early rollout, as well as ongoing implementation efforts. New and sustained support of DACA implementation continues to be critically needed to help the remaining 36,000 eligible youth and young adults in Oregon and Washington apply for this important program and to assist the nearly 19,000 successful applicants apply for renewal. Renewals will begin August 15, 2014, and will require applicants to submit an updated application form, pay a filing fee, and provide any new documentation related to removal proceedings or criminal history.
- ◎ **Support citizenship and immigrant civic participation.** In many locations across the country, funders have formed regional citizenship funding collaboratives that provide valuable lessons, best practices, and models that can be adapted for other regions. One such network is the [National Partnership for New Americans](#) (NPNA). Started in 2010, NPNA is composed of 12 of the largest immigrant advocacy organizations in the country.<sup>57</sup> NPNA focuses its efforts on naturalization of the estimated eight million eligible immigrants in the United States, various immigrant integration efforts, and direct advocacy.

In addition to naturalization programs, funders can consider supporting civic engagement efforts, such as nonpartisan voter registration drives, as well as opportunities for immigrants to organize, participate actively in their communities, and assume public leadership roles. Partners in the region are piloting innovation around citizenship and civic participation. For example, Oregon Voice’s [New Americans Voters Project](#) (NAVP) offers the chance to register to vote at naturalization ceremonies—a practice that enables new U.S. citizens to immediately participate in the democratic process.
- ◎ **Engage in coordinated planning efforts** with funding colleagues and other stakeholders. Funders can avoid duplication and maximize impact through joint data collection, analysis, planning, strategy development, and allocation of funds. Communication and coordination with colleagues in philanthropy—and a wide range of other stakeholders—will continue to be critical, particularly if a large-scale legalization program is implemented nationally.

**For more information on funding opportunities and strategies, visit [www.gcir.org](http://www.gcir.org) or contact Daranee Petsod ([daranee@gcir.org](mailto:daranee@gcir.org)) or Felecia Bartow ([felecia@gcir.org](mailto:felecia@gcir.org)).**



# Conclusion

Immigrants are playing a large and expanding role in the social, economic, and civic life of Oregon and Washington. In the years—and generations—to come, the contributions that newcomers and their children will make in the region are virtually limitless. Whether focused on health, education, workforce development, or other grantmaking areas, funders in Oregon and Washington can play a crucial role to help immigrants address pressing needs and increase their contributions to society. In so doing, they will help build a vital and prosperous future for all residents.



## Endnotes

- 1 Based on MPI analysis of 2009 ACS, immigrants account for 12% and 10% of Washington and Oregon's populations, respectively.
- 2 Based on analysis by Professor Luis Fraga of the University of Washington of data from the Office of Financial Management, States of Washington and Oregon.
- 3 Klinge, Matthew W. (undated.) *A History Bursting With Telling: Asian Americans in Washington State*. University of Washington Department: Center for the Study of the Pacific Northwest. Retrieved from: <https://www.washington.edu/uwired/outreach/cspn/Website/Classroom%20Materials/Curriculum%20Packets/Asian%20Americans/Asian%20American%20Main.html>
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 Binder, M. (2013, November 22.) "Russian-speaking immigrants in Portland mostly invisible, isolated." *The Oregonian*. Retrieved from: [http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2013/11/russian-speaking\\_immigrants\\_in\\_1.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2013/11/russian-speaking_immigrants_in_1.html); Binder, M. (2013, November 22.) Russian-speaking immigrants in Oregon: A historical explainer. *The Oregonian*. Retrieved from: [http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2013/11/russian-speaking\\_immigrants\\_in.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2013/11/russian-speaking_immigrants_in.html)
- 6 Klinge, undated
- 7 Davila, F. (2004, February 29.) "Seattle area re-emerges as immigrant 'gateway.'" *The Seattle Times*. Retrieved from: [http://seattletimes.com/html/localnews/2001867853\\_gateway29m.html](http://seattletimes.com/html/localnews/2001867853_gateway29m.html)
- 8 Ibid.
- 9 Based on analysis by Professor Luis Fraga of the University of Washington of data from the Office of Financial Management, States of Washington and Oregon. In Washington, the Hispanic/Latino and Asian populations grew as a share of the state population from 2.9% and 2.5%, respectively, in 1980 to 11.2% and 7.1%, respectively, in 2010. In Oregon, the Hispanic/Latino and Asian populations grew as a share of the state population from 2.5% and 1.3%, respectively, in 1980 to 11.7% and 3.7%, respectively, in 2010.
- 10 Analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data by Immigration Policy Center.
- 11 Office of Seattle Mayor Ed Murray. (2014, March 26.) "Mayor Murray expands Office to better serve Seattle's immigrant and refugee communities." Retrieved from: <http://murray.seattle.gov/mayor-murray-expands-office-to-better-serve-seattles-immigrant-and-refugee-communities/#sthash.4eIhvYTG.mXFeXDk4.dpbs>
- 12 Based on analysis on 2010 U.S. Census data by Professor Luis Fraga, University of Washington, Mexico accounts for 40% and 26% of Oregon and Washington's immigrant populations
- 13 Based on an MPI analysis of 2009 American Community Survey data, Latin America as a whole accounts for 48% and 30%.
- 14 For the purposes of this report, Korea refers to both North and South Korea.
- 15 Based on analysis on 2010 U.S. Census data by Professor Luis Fraga, University of Washington, China and Canada account for 5% and 4% of Oregon's foreign-born population, respectively. In Washington, the Philippines accounts for 7% the immigrant population and Canada, China, Korea, and Vietnam each represent 6%.
- 16 Based on MPI tabulations of the U.S. Bureau of the Census' American Community Survey (ACS) and Decennial Census, with 2012 data from the one-year ACS file.
- 17 For the purposes of this report, Latin America consists of South America, Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean. Northern America includes Canada, Bermuda, Greenland, and St. Pierre and Miquelon. Oceania consists of the Australia and New Zealand subregion.
- 18 Martin, Daniel C., & Yankay, James E. (April 2013.) *Refugees and Asylees: 2012*. U.S. Department of Homeland Security: Office of Immigration Statistics; Martin, Daniel C., & Yankay, James E. (May 2012.) *Refugees and Asylees: 2011*. Homeland Security: Office of Immigration Statistics;
- 19 According to an MPI analysis of 2009 ACS data, 25% of the child population in Washington are children of immigrants, as are 22% of Oregon's child population.
- 20 Based on MPI analysis of pooled Community Population Survey data from 2006-2008.
- 21 The rate is calculated based on the civilian, non-institutionalized population.
- 22 MPI tabulations of the U.S. Bureau of Census' ACS and Decennial Census; 2012 data from the one-year ACS file.
- 23 Percentages are calculated based on the civilian noninstitutionalized population, which is defined as persons 16 years of age and older residing in the 50 states and the District of Columbia who are not inmates of institutions (for example, penal and mental facilities, homes for the aged), and who are not on active duty in the Armed Forces.
- 24 Associated Press. "Washington Gov. Jay Inslee signs bill expanding college financial aid to include students without legal status." (2014, February 26.) *The Oregonian*. Retrieved from: [http://www.oregonlive.com/pacific-northwest-news/index.ssf/2014/02/washington\\_gov\\_jay\\_inslee\\_sign\\_1.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/pacific-northwest-news/index.ssf/2014/02/washington_gov_jay_inslee_sign_1.html)
- 25 MPI tabulations of the U.S. Bureau of Census' ACS and Decennial Census.
- 26 U.S. visa policy favors certain classes of people, including immediate relatives of recent immigrants, particularly spouses and younger children, and skilled workers and professionals, particularly in high-demand professions, among others.
- 27 According to an analysis by the National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition & Language Instruction Educational Programs.
- 28 According to an MPI analysis of 2009 ACS data, immigrant workers account for 49% and 50% of all low-skilled workers in Washington and Oregon, respectively.
- 29 For more information on this topic, please visit <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/tackling-brain-waste-strategies-improve-recognition-immigrants%E2%80%9999-foreign-qualifications>.

- 30 According to an MPI analysis of 2009 ACS data, 33 percent of immigrant workers in Oregon qualified as low LEP, 23 percent in Washington, and 27 percent nationwide.
- 31 LEP refers to limited English proficient, or persons reporting speaking English less than “very well.” They include medium LEP (i.e., those speaking English “well”) and low LEP (i.e., those speaking English “not well or not at all”).
- 32 Office of Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber. (undated.) “Governor Kitzhaber Statement on Supreme Court Ruling on Arizona Immigration Law. Retrieved from: [http://www.oregon.gov/gov/media\\_room/Pages/press\\_releasesp2012/press\\_062512.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/gov/media_room/Pages/press_releasesp2012/press_062512.aspx)
- 33 Theen, Andrew. (2014, February 6.) “Mayor Charlie Hales talked cities, streetcars, granola bars, on Al Jazeera America: Portland City Hall Roundup.” The Oregonian. Retrieved from: [http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2014/02/mayor\\_charlie\\_hales\\_talked\\_cit.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2014/02/mayor_charlie_hales_talked_cit.html)
- 34 Fairlie, Robert W. (August 2012). *Open for Business: How Immigrants Are Driving Small Business Creation in the United States*. Partnership for a New American Economy. Retrieved from: <http://www.renewoureconomy.org/sites/all/themes/pnae/openforbusiness.pdf>
- 35 Ibid.
- 36 *New Americans in Oregon: The Political and Economic Power of Immigrants, Latinos, and Asians in the Beaver State* and *New Americans in Washington: The Political and Economic Power of Immigrants, Latinos, and Asians in the Evergreen State*. (May 2013). Immigration Policy Center. Retrieved from: <http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/just-facts/new-americans-oregon>, <http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/just-facts/new-americans-washington>
- 37 Stimulus Spending by State. (2009, August 6.) The Wall Street Journal. Retrieved from: <http://online.wsj.com/public/resources/documents/info-STIMULUS0903.html>
- 38 “DREAMers” refers to intended beneficiaries of the federal legislation first introduced in the U.S. Senate on August 1, 2001, the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act or the DREAM Act. This bill would provide conditional permanent residency and an eventual path to citizenship for certain undocumented immigrants. Although DACA benefits a narrower pool of undocumented immigrants than the proposed DREAM legislation, the term “DREAMers” is used interchangeably with DACA beneficiaries and undocumented youth and young adults in this document.
- 39 Gonzales, Roberto G.; & Terriquez, Veronica. (August 2013). *How DACA is Impacting the Lives of Those Who are Now DACAmented: Preliminary Findings from the National UnDACAmented Research Project*. Immigration Policy Center. Published in collaboration with the Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration at the University of Southern California. Retrieved from: <http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/just-facts/how-daca-impacting-lives-those-who-are-now-dacamented>
- 40 *Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Process (Through Fiscal Year 2014, 1st Qtr)*. (December 2013). U.S. Department of Homeland Security: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.
- 41 Fix, Michael. (Nov. 4, 2013.) *DACA at One*. Funders Briefing in the Pacific Northwest. MPI. Also see: Batalova, Jeanne; Hooker, Sarah; & Capps, Randy. (August 2013). *Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals at the One-Year Mark: A Profile of Currently Eligible Youth and Applicants*. MPI.
- 42 Ibid. (Washington has more than 11,000 residents who are eligible for DACA but are too young to apply and a nearly equal number who are eligible except for the educational requirements. Oregon has 7,000 residents who fall into the former category and 5,000 in the latter.)
- 43 Applicants who have been honorably discharged from the U.S. military are also eligible.
- 44 Pastor, Manuel, & Scoggins, Justin. (December 2012.) *Citizen Gain: The Economic Benefits of Naturalization*. Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration.
- 45 Ibid.
- 46 Bratsberg, Brent; Ragan Jr., James F.; & Nasir, Zafar M. (2002.) *The Effect of Naturalization on Wage Growth: A Panel Study of Young Male Immigrants*. Journal of Labor Economics 20, no. 3.
- 47 Rob Paral and Associates. (Accessed April 2014). *Eligible for Naturalization*. Retrieved from: <http://robparal.com/NatzEligible/Naturalize.html>.
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- 49 Similar data was not available for Oregon.
- 50 Oregon Voice. (Undated.) New American Voters Project: Engaging Oregon’s Newest Citizens In Democracy.
- 51 Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities. (2013, July 18.) “Catholic College Presidents Call for Immigration Reform with a Path to Citizenship.” Retrieved from: <http://www.accunet.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3899>
- 52 Applicants must pay \$680 to submit their application, in addition to any fees and costs associated with obtaining copies of records and documentation from their country of origin.
- 53 To download the report, please visit <https://www.gcir.org/publications/gcirpubs/college>.
- 54 For more information, please visit <http://www.cdcu.coop/federation-and-gcir-launches-new-initiative-focused-on-immigrant-community/>.
- 55 Oregon Voice. (Undated.) New American Voters Project: *Engaging Oregon’s Newest Citizens In Democracy*.
- 56 Noyes News. (July 2013.) “Oregon Voice and Partners Receive Award.” Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation. Retrieved from: <http://www.noyes.org/news/noyes-news-archives/july-2013/>
- 57 This multiethnic coalition includes OneAmerica, Washington’s largest immigrant advocacy group, and Causa, a statewide Latino immigrant rights organization in Oregon.



## About GCIR

Since 1990, GCIR has worked to influence philanthropy to advance the contributions and address the needs of the country's growing and increasingly diverse immigrant and refugee populations. In so doing, we seek to promote effective grantmaking that not only improves the lives of newcomers but also strengthens communities.

GCIR partners with our member foundations, as well as the greater philanthropic community, on a wide range of immigration and immigrant integration issues, including education, health, employment, civic participation, racial and economic justice, and other concerns affecting immigrant children, youth, and families. Some of our members have longstanding immigrant-specific funding initiatives, but most address immigrant and refugee issues within their core grantmaking programs. The majority of our members fund locally, regionally, or nationally in the United States, and a handful make migration-related grants internationally.

For more information about GCIR and our various programs and resources, visit [www.gcir.org](http://www.gcir.org) or email [info@gcir.org](mailto:info@gcir.org).

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