

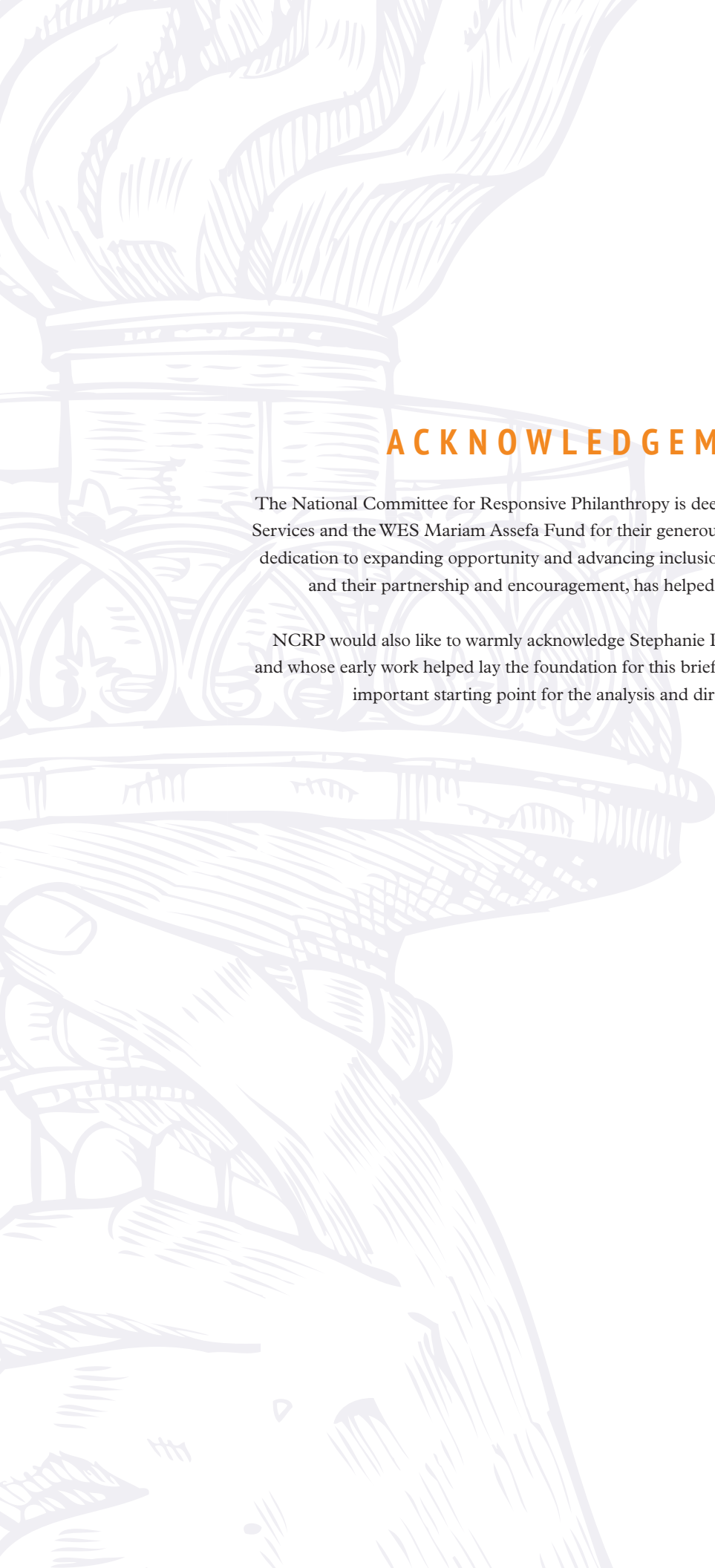
THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF **WELCOME**

Philanthropy's Opportunity to Invest
in Power and Prosperity for
Immigrant Communities



OCTOBER 2026





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy is deeply grateful to World Education Services and the WES Mariam Assefa Fund for their generous support of this research. Their dedication to expanding opportunity and advancing inclusion for immigrants and refugees, and their partnership and encouragement, has helped make this work possible.

NCRP would also like to warmly acknowledge Stephanie Peng, who began this research and whose early work helped lay the foundation for this brief. Her contributions provided an important starting point for the analysis and direction of this work.

INTRODUCTION

Migration is a deeply human story. It's also a distinctly American one. Immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers – especially those fleeing war, poverty, and oppression – have enriched this country's culture, communities, and ideals from its very founding. When new Americans thrive, we all thrive.

The bronze plaque on the Statue of Liberty's pedestal captures this national aspiration. It calls the towering figure a “Mother of Exiles” whose power comes not from “conquering limbs” or “storied pomp,” but “worldwide welcome.” Her very torch is a beacon, a “lamp beside the golden door.” It is an aspiration to welcome that the country has not always lived up to. An aspiration that – after generations of relative consensus – is once again hotly contested by a vocal minority that ignores the pressing demographic realities that will cause stagnant or negative economic growth and harm our communities and nation.

Nonprofit organizations across the country have the capacity for organizing a welcoming countermovement with philanthropic support that breaks giving silos and rejects silence as a community response. Funders can use their resources to build a better, more golden future. This report outlines the strength of this opportunity.

The National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy used public tax filings to show the 4-year snapshot of the resource landscape for these immigrant-serving community-based organizations. The goal was to understand the depth and breadth of the civil society organizations dedicated to fulfilling the country's promise to immigrants and spotlight the opportunities for philanthropic funding to better support such efforts.

Out of hundreds of thousands of 501(c)3 organizations in the United States, NCRP identified more than 3,000 whose tax filings since 2010 explicitly describe their work as serving immigrants and refugees. Most organizations in this ecosystem provide services, either primarily for immigrants and refugees (27%) or for a broader community that includes immigrants and refugees (47%). A smaller share of organizations are focused on building the power of immigrants, refugees, and their allies to advance structural change, either as a component of a broad multi-issue and/or multi-constituency movement (8%) or with a primary focus on migrant power-building (16%).

NCRP also tracked private and public foundation funding for these 3,000+ immigrant-serving organizations. While foundation funding to immigrant serving organizations more than doubled from \$1.4 to \$3 billion between 2017 and 2021, funding has not exceeded 2% of total U.S. grantmaking since 2011.

DIVERSE ORGANIZATIONS, DYNAMIC REVENUE SOURCES

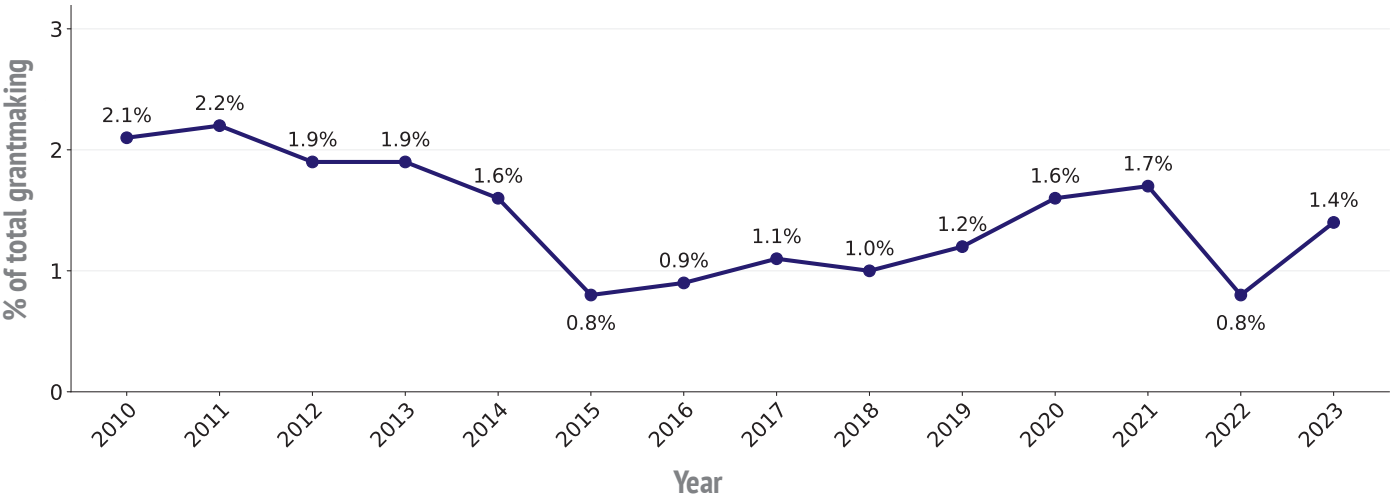
Like all nonprofits, immigrant-serving organizations rely on a dynamic mix of revenue sources to operate. They notably include government contracts and grants, individual and institutional (*i.e.*, foundation) contributions, and program service revenue.

Revenue source by %	Core movement organizations	Multi-issue movement organizations	Immigrant service provision organizations	Multi-constituency service provision organizations
Grants and Contributions	66%	72%	31%	15%
Government Grants and contracts	19%	16%	48%	43%
Program Service	10%	4%	16%	37%
All Other	5%	7%	5%	5%

A resilient, robust immigrant-serving nonprofit ecosystem includes sustainably resourced organizations in 4 categories: immigrant service provision organizations, multi-constituency service provision organizations, core movement organizations that build power specifically for and in immigrant communities, and multi-issue movement-building organizations that articulate a vision of justice and prosperity for all. *While foundation funding to immigrant serving organizations more than doubled from 2017–2021 from \$1.4 to \$3 billion, funding has not exceeded 2% of total U.S. grantmaking since 2011. Power-building immi-*

grant-serving organizations – both core movement or multi-issue movement organizations – are the most reliant on grants and other contributions, while service provision organizations are relatively more reliant on government funding sources. Still, out of the 20 organizations receiving the most foundation funding in our list, only 3 are core movement organizations. The resource landscape – especially public resources – for organizations that provide key services to immigrant communities is likely to depend at least in part on the power immigrant communities exercise in our democracy. Foundations and other

GIVING TO IMMIGRANTS AS A SHARE OF TOTAL GRANTMAKING

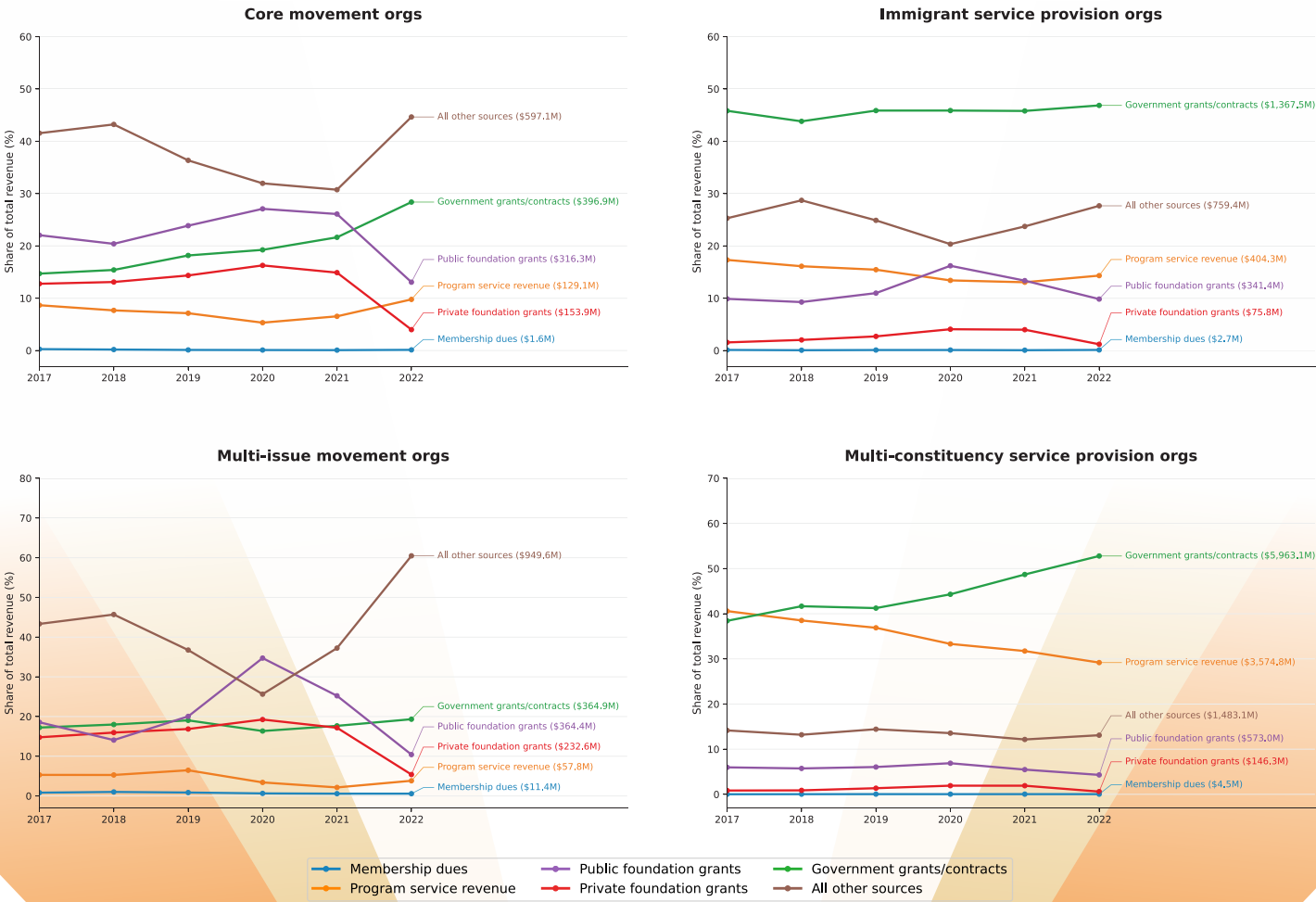


private donors have an opportunity to multiply their philanthropic impact by investing in relatively under-funded core movement organizations whose power-building work has proven to leverage more resources from other sources for the community sustaining work of immigrant service providers.

Revenue composition for immigrant-serving organizations is dynamic. *Between 2017 and 2022, these organizations experienced uneven growth that left behind inequitably distributed vulnerabilities*

at a time when their work became arguably more important than any time in recent memory. For example, in this timeframe core movement organizations and multi-constituency service provision organizations became relatively more reliant on government funding sources (+10 percentage points), while both core movement organizations and multi-issue movement organizations became less reliant on private foundation funding (-4 percentage points).

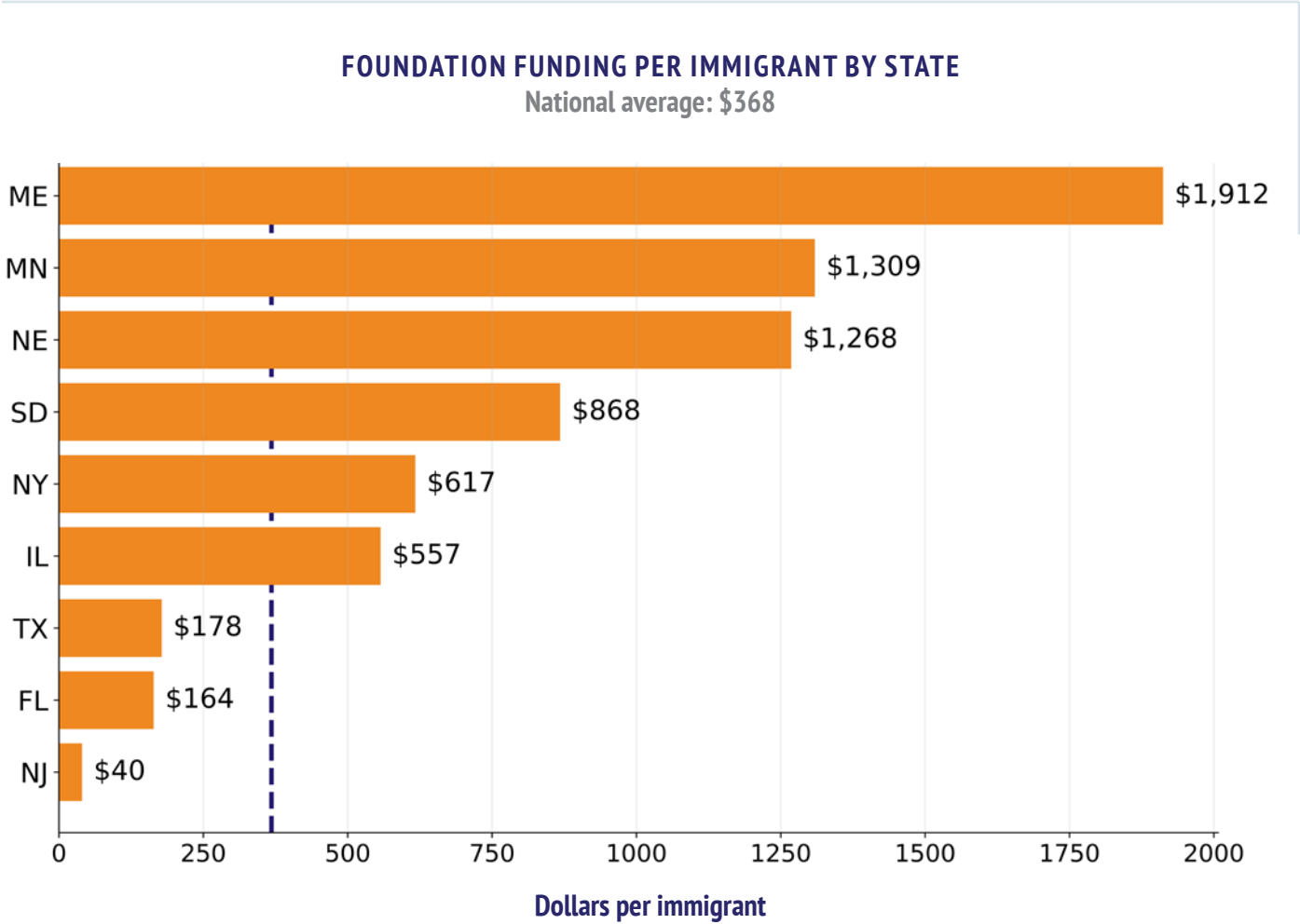
REVENUE MIX OVER TIME BY ORGANIZATION TYPE, 2017-2022



ON THE PRECIPICE OF A RESOURCE CRISIS

Given these revenue composition dynamics, the combined impact of federal budget uncertainty, donor responses to executive orders attacking civil society, and the ramping up of deportations in 2025 and ‘26 on the United States’ immigrant-serving organizations will have landed differently on different types of immigrant-serving organizations and parts of the country. *Between 2017 and 2022, 5% of foundation funding for pro-immigrant organizations was for organizations primarily*

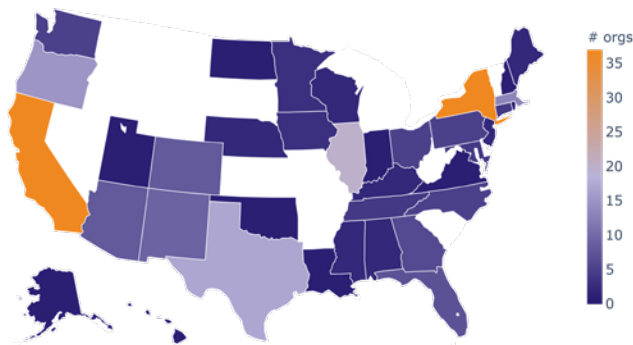
serving AAPI immigrants, 2% each was for organizations primarily serving Black or Muslim, Arab, or Middle Eastern immigrants, and 0.2% was for organizations primarily serving indigenous immigrants. Based on this data, NCRP sees an opportunity for funders interested in expanding their support of these organizations and causes to mitigate the impact of an uncertain government funding environment.



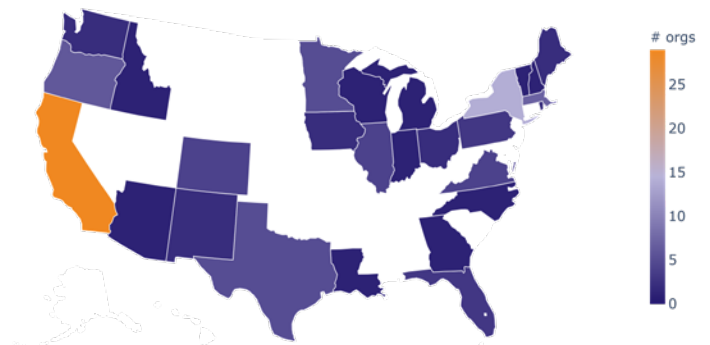
Although total foundation funding in raw dollars is concentrated in places with large pro-immigrant nonprofit ecosystems like California, New York, and the District of Columbia, foundation dollars per immigrant figures reveal that funding does not consistently align with immigrant population size. States such as Maine, Minnesota, and Nebraska are the most well-funded relative to immigrant populations, and states with more immigrants like Texas, Florida, and New Jersey receive comparatively less funding per capita.

UNIQUE ORGANIZATIONS BY STATE IN 2022, BY ORG TYPE

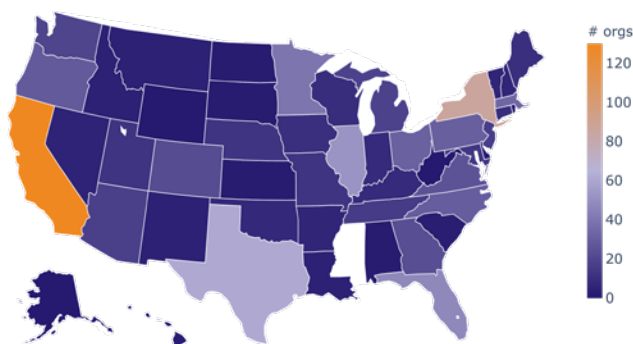
core movement orgs



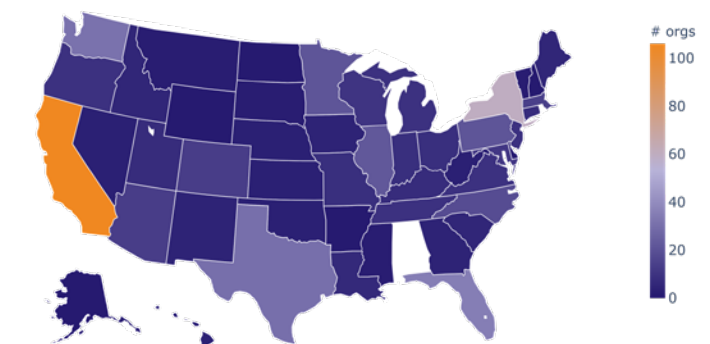
multi-issue movement orgs



immigrant service provision orgs



multi-constituency service provision orgs



MAPPING PRO-IMMIGRANT NONPROFITS

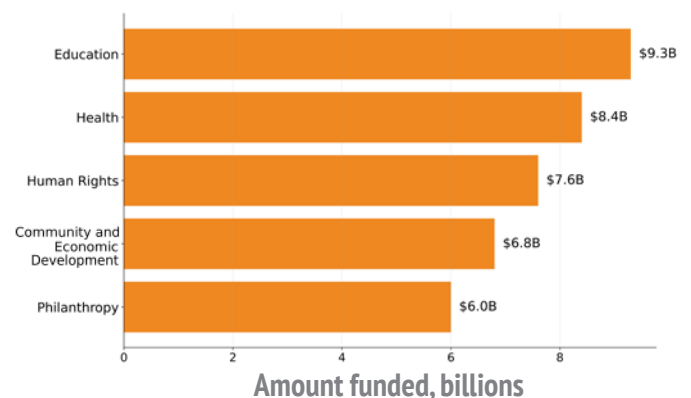
Geographic disparities will also have an impact. Organizations in California and New York received the largest foundation funding totals as many national pro-immigrant organizations are based in these states. While these nationally-oriented pro-immigrant organizations are doing critical movement-building work, their impact on local immigrant communities is indirect, complicating the picture painted by large per-immigrant foundation funding statistics in those states.

When foundation funding is compared across states according to the size of each state's immigrant population, more vulnerabilities become apparent. *NCRP identified pro-immigrant organizations in every state. However, in many states with large and growing immigrant populations in the South and Mountain West, NCRP identified no core movement or multi-issue movement organizations.*

The 10 largest foundation funders of pro-immigrant organizations are prolific supporters

of issue areas with significant implications for immigrant communities, which suggests there is room in philanthropic portfolios to target pro-immigrant organizations within education, health, human rights, and economic development funding portfolios.

MOST FUNDED ISSUE AREAS BY TOP 10 CORE MOVEMENT ORG FUNDERS



OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUNDERS

1. Funding Strategically and Imaginatively

Now is the time for funders to invest in the organizations keeping immigrants safe, connecting them to good jobs in fields where workers are most needed like healthcare and building the power of immigrant communities to participate fully in our democracy. Every funder with portfolios addressing economic inclusion, education, workforce development, health, or human rights should consider how the 4 types of immigrant-serving organizations can play a role within or become aligned with their own funding priorities. Funders that communicate to prospective and existing grantees that their definition of community health and prosperity explicitly includes immigrants may learn that ready-to-fund immigrant-supporting opportunities already exist in their service and/or program areas. Immigrant service provision and core movement organizations are especially positioned to thrive on the flexibility and patience of private philanthropic support.

2. Closing Geographic Disparities

The historic underfunding of pro-immigrant movement work, particularly in the South and the Mountain West, presents opportunities for funders to support the growth of organizational infrastructure critical to the longterm health and prosperity of immigrant communities in those regions. Arizona, Idaho, Nevada, North Dakota, Montana, Oklahoma, Texas, and Utah all receive less grantmaking for immigrant-supporting work (per capita) than the national average, as do Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, and West Virginia.

3. Leaning Into Trust-based Philanthropy

More than half of all analyzed grants to immigrant-serving organizations were given with project restrictions. Unrestricted multi-year funding is the essential food organizations need to grow, especially organizations that play such a critical role in our communities' social safety net. Foundations, in particular those with endowments, can multiply the impact of their giving by cutting burdensome reporting requirements and investing in a multi-year vision. Nothing about multi-year general operating support precludes funders from measuring the impact of their giving; it only requires different tools, which other funders have already tested and perfected.

4. Supporting Power-building

Funders that want to fund upstream from the challenges facing immigrant communities should be giving multi-year general operating support to core movement organizations in their communities, not to the exclusion of other kinds of immigrant-serving organizations, but as a focused commitment within a broader strategy. Core movement organizations need private donor support to build power for a better future and weather the current policy environment. With leadership development, capacity building, policy and advocacy, community organizing, and a host of services relevant to their lives, these organizations are building the power of immigrant communities to participate in a multi-racial, multi-ethnic democracy.

5. Mobilizing Resources to Counter Threats

Between 2020 and 2023, NCRP tracked \$215 million given to organizations with explicitly anti-immigrant positions and programs. Nativism is not a new force in American civil society, but it is better funded than ever before, even as the vast mainstream of the country supports new Americans. Philanthropists who value an open, multi-racial democracy have the opportunity to build a countermovement that resonates with the long-standing, deep-seated commitment to welcome that is at the center of American life. Pooling resources and coordinating evaluation and communication with peer funders is a proven, sustainable way for philanthropy to manage risk and maintain a shared understanding of the landscape. Investing in the well-being of the staff at immigrant power-building organizations is another proven way to multiply impact.

CONCLUSION

There may be no higher expression of the “love for humankind” that defines “philanthropy” than a well-funded ecosystem of organizations that makes welcome a reality.

When immigrants live under constant threat of economic instability, family separation, or worse, their families and all of our communities are less safe, healthy, and prosperous.

All funders have the opportunity to craft strategies that foster an inclusive culture, especially those concerned with economic development or public health. This is an excellent time to invest in programs and priorities that connect immigrants to American society and one another. The golden door will never close as long as there are donors and community organizers willing to stake their resources and power on an ever more welcoming country.



DEFINITIONS SPOTLIGHT

Multi-constituency service provision organizations

explicitly include immigrants as a constituency to which they provide services like housing/food/utility assistance or legal aid and represent 47% of organizations surveyed, the largest share of this group. These include:

- **Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota** – serving 1 in 63 Minnesotans by offering behavioral health, parenting support, financial and employment services, and housing assistance among other critical services.
- **Merced County Food Bank** – serving San Joaquin Valley residents affected by hunger.
- **Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland** – championing equitable access to justice for Maryland’s marginalized communities by providing legal help, pioneering collaboration with partners, and advocating for economic and social justice.
- **YWCA Northwestern Illinois** – supporting women and children through childcare subsidies, quality childcare access, home visiting and family advocacy, adult literacy programming, and workforce development training.

Immigrant service provision organizations focus on providing services primarily to immigrants, representing 27% of organizations surveyed. These include:

- **Global Refuge** (formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service) – witnessing God’s love for all by standing with and advocating for migrants and refugees and transforming communities through ministries of service and justice, including financial and career counseling, children and family services, mental healthcare, and refugee resettlement.
- **Asian Counseling and Referral Service** – providing multilingual, multicultural case management services, nurse consultation, food distribution programs, and social and wellness services for seniors across the Puget Sound region.
- **Louisiana Organization for Refugees and Immigrants** – supporting refugees and immigrants through various stages of integration and enabling them to become self-reliant through legal support, social integration, ESL and citizenship classes, summer enrichment camp, and leadership development.
- **Alliance for African Assistance** – assisting refugees, immigrants, and the economically challenged and underserved through social, cultural, and educational assistance, including housing, health screenings, education, language classes, and job training.



Core movement organizations prioritize building the power specifically of immigrant communities through tactics like community organizing and policy advocacy, representing 16% of organizations surveyed. These include:

- **Make the Road New York** – building the power of immigrant and working-class communities in New York to achieve dignity and justice through civic engagement, adult literacy, community organizing, leadership development, legal services, healthcare access, and the youth power project.
- **Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights** – promoting the full and equal participation of immigrants and refugees in the political, civic, cultural, and social life of our diverse society through healthcare access, community organizing, supporting access to public benefits, civic engagement, and higher education navigation services.
- **United We Dream** – achieving dignity and humanity for all young people in the United States, including those from immigrant communities by empowering youth-led organizing, and developing our members' leadership.
- **Korean Resource Center** – promoting Korean history and cultural appreciation, providing services, and empowering the Korean American community in Southern California through civic education and participation.

Multi-issue movement organizations have immigrants as constituents and build power with and for them as part of a broader strategy, *e.g.*, worker power or gender justice, and represent 8% of organizations surveyed. These include:

- **One Fair Wage** – raising wages and improving working conditions in the service sector through policy, industry, and narrative shifts.
- **Center for Popular Democracy** – forging a representative, multiracial government and society where we all thrive through leadership development, network building, cultural experiences, research, and narrative change.
- **Faith in Public Life** – advancing the moral imperative for a just, inclusive, and equitable country that allows each of us to live into our full humanity by building power and cultures of belonging among diverse influential faith leaders and using them as a resource to expand the narrative on the vision for our democracy.
- **Jews for Racial & Economic Justice** – building vibrant Jewish people power working for social justice in New York City.



World
Education
Services



THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF WELCOME
Philanthropy's Opportunity to Invest in Power
and Prosperity for Immigrant Communities

OCTOBER 2026

