

2023

LOS ANGELES IMMIGRATION SUMMIT



USC
Dornsife
*Equity Research
Institute*

California
COMMUNITY
Foundation

TAKEAWAYS

SYSTEMS CHANGE

We need to break out of systems conceived of and maintained by dominant systems of power. Beyond changing the narratives, we also need cultural shifts.

- **Examples:** Crimmigration, housing as a commodity instead of a necessity, dehumanizing policies for immigrants based on our country's history of anti-Blackness, and reframing accessibility.

OPPORTUNITIES

In recent years, the immigrant rights movement has survived the Trump administration, an ongoing pandemic, and multiple global crises. There is an opportunity to transform and reimagine funding streams available to immigrant-serving institutions that are more flexible, unrestricted, and inclusive of practices of wellbeing, care, and rest.

- **Examples:** Funding organizers, lawyers, and others with skills necessary to further immigrant inclusion; building and funding sustainable organizations, that are already doing immigrant inclusion work now; ensuring policies get implemented so people actually benefit.

INTERSECTIONALITY

The experiences of immigrants are so rich, and deeply intersectional. We're having deeper conversations, even amongst immigration advocates, about this. We need to continue this momentum in order to strengthen solidarity within and between immigrant communities. We are all in this together; we must learn from each other and be there for each other in times of hardship. Indeed, as Guerline Jozef from Hatian Bridge Alliance shared, "None of us will be free until all of us are free".

- **Examples:** The needs of Black LGBTQIA+ migrants, indigenous migrants, immigrants living with disabilities.

LEADERSHIP

L.A. County is an immigration policy and organizing powerhouse. It is a perfect place to expand our thinking, be more creative, and push the envelope for immigrant rights. The current political conditions are conducive to achieving bigger and bolder goals.

- **Examples:** Securing RepresentLA legal services program from the County, establishing Sanctuary City status in the City of L.A., and more.

ACCESS

We need to advocate for and create more access to services for immigrant communities in all forms: language access, cultural access, access to legal resources and more. Just as important is providing funding to organizations to see this work through in a sustainable way.

- **Example:** Providing access to services and programs in all languages spoken by immigrant Angelenos. As Odilia Romero from CIELO shared, "Language access is not a service, it's a human right."