Immigrants in Orange County: A Journey Toward Regional Equity
GCIR galvanizes philanthropy to advance equity and justice for immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers
“These people are criminals. As such, they have NO ‘RIGHTS’ other than emergency medical care and humane treatment as they are being DEPORTED!

We can only wonder how many in this group of foreign invaders have robbed, raped and possibly murdered law-abiding American citizens and legal residents.”
Barbara Coe

Cosponsor of Prop 187
"Illegal immigration is bankrupting states along the border, but this is about more than economics – we're placing our national security at risk. Drug lords and violent gangs like MS-13 are streaming into the U.S. from Mexico. Terrorists are also walking in unopposed; our southwestern border is littered with Arabic papers and Islamic prayer rugs."
Jim Gilchrist

Co-founder of Minuteman Project
Orange County’s Present
ICE Contract Terminated
Change in Political Leadership
Demographic Change

Share of Immigrants

Share of Nonwhite Residents

Share of College Graduates
Demographic Change

- 33% of OC residents
- 38% of OC workers
- 41% of OC business owners
- 50% are U.S. citizens
- 80% have lived in the U.S. for 10+ years
Beyond Demographics
23 funding partners

$1.9 million in grants

27 nonprofit grantees

1,917 events
201,787 event participants
12,467 screenings
46 immigrant-serving staff hired
1,511 volunteers trained
MISSION

To strengthen the immigrant and refugee serving organizations by enhancing direct service and systems change capacity in order to achieve collective impact.
An immigrant and refugee community that is fully integrated into the socio-economic, cultural, and civic life of Orange County.
Orange County’s Future
Equality

The assumption is that everyone benefits from the same supports. This is equal treatment.

Equity

Everyone gets the supports they need (this is the concept of "affirmative action"), thus producing equity.

Justice

All 3 can see the game without supports or accommodations because the cause(s) of the inequity was addressed. The systemic barrier has been removed.
“An equitable region is one in which all residents, regardless of race/ethnicity or nativity, neighborhood of residence, or other characteristics, are fully able to participate in their region’s economic vitality, contribute to the region’s readiness for the future, and connect to assets and resources.”

– An Equity Profile of Orange County, March 2019
Equity in the Immigration Context
Valuing Everyone’s Full Humanity
Just and Fair Treatment
A Mindset of “Us”
A Sense of Community & Belonging
Opportunity to Thrive
Having a Voice and Being Heard
Equity in the Immigration Context

- HUMANITY
- JUSTICE
- BELONGING
- OPPORTUNITY
- VOICE
How Do We Create a Vibrant, Equitable Region Together?
What an Equitable Region Requires:

- Protecting immigrants
- Shifting culture and narrative
- Building bridges
- Strengthening leadership
- Increasing civic engagement
“On my block, there’s an Indian family, an Asian, a guy from the South, a couple of Jewish families. If you’d said 25 years ago that I was going to live here, I’d say you were crazy. And I love it. I love it. It’s changed my own views, my politics. I’ve changed my outlook.”

- Retired Engineer
DREAM BIG
LEAD THE WAY
ENVISION
How will you work with others to achieve this vision?
Close Your Eyes...
Let’s Do This!