

ILLINOIS IMMIGRATION FUNDERS COLLABORATIVE (IFC)

Request for Letters of Inquiry

September 5, 2017

The Illinois Immigration Funders Collaborative (IFC) invites Illinois 501c3 organizations with a mission to advance the rights and well-being of immigrants and refugees, and/or programming that is focused on them to apply for grant funding. Interested, eligible organizations should send Letters of Inquiry (LOIs) to request consideration for one or more of the following three funding areas.

Grant Categories

- **Immigration legal assistance** - immigration legal services for immigrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers, including *but not limited to* screening, application assistance, representation, deportation defense, safety planning, or impact litigation. Services may be provided to individuals, including unaccompanied minors, and families. Organizations that are receiving naturalization funding from the state, via ICIRR, may not use IFC funding for naturalization application assistance. Organizations must be: DOJ-recognized, with at least one DOJ-accredited rep currently on staff and have an established practice for consultation on and/or referral of complex cases; or employ an attorney with immigration expertise. (IFC will consider requests from organizations providing legal services that augment immigration assistance – such as family law and property expertise – only in partnership with an organization that is DOJ-recognized or has an immigration attorney on staff.) In this category, we will consider requests for one-year grants of \$20,000 to \$40,000. We anticipate awarding approximately \$450,000 in all for legal assistance.
- **Immigrant and refugee community engagement and strengthening** – community organizing and policy advocacy, including cross-community work, that explicitly reflects the interests of immigrants and refugees, and directly engages, advocates, and organizes with those most affected by recent changes in national policy and other anti-immigrant/refugee policies and practices. Work may be about protection, challenging harmful practices, and/or envisioning new opportunities. May include, but *is not limited to*: base-building; leadership development; welcoming/sanctuary efforts; or *Know Your Rights* training and safety planning that are community- or organizationally-focused (e.g., community alert and safety systems/networks). In this category, IFC will consider requests for one-year grants of \$15,000 to \$40,000. We anticipate awarding about \$300,000 in all for advocacy and organizing.
- **Field or multi-organizational capacity building** – efforts to benefit two or more organizations or the immigrant- and refugee-focused nonprofit sector in whole or part, to address infrastructure strengthening and best use of resources. Examples – *for illustrative purposes only* – might include: shared back-office, training to develop additional fully-accredited DOJ representatives, collective fundraising efforts, or shared volunteer

management. Coordination and planning, and training and technical assistance for groups of organizations will also be considered in this category. For new or emerging work, IFC will consider support for three- to six-month feasibility and planning periods, to help increase the odds of effective implementation of the most important and promising projects; funding for implementation will be considered later for such projects with the strongest implementation plans. Capacity-building requests to benefit a single organization will not be considered. We will consider requests in this category to range from \$5,000 to \$15,000 for planning over a few months, and one-year grant requests for continuation of established projects and implementation of new work in the range of \$25,000 to \$70,000. We expect to make only a handful of grants in this category, for a total of about \$250,000.

NOTE: Because IFC is confident only of having funding for grants in 2018 and 2019, we prefer to support organizations that have a track record of work, over new ones, and programs or projects (except for those that fall into the capacity building category above) that are established, not being started.

To Apply and Next Steps

1. Send a completed LOI to the IFC project manager alicecottingham@gmail.com by 11:59 pm CDT on Friday, September 29, 2017.
2. LOIs will be reviewed by representatives of IFC's participating foundations.
3. Invitations to provide additional information will be sent to selected applicants by email on October 18, 2017. Additional information from these organizations will be due by Wednesday, November 15, 2017.
4. IFC will also notify all applicants not selected for further consideration on October 18th. Applicants are welcome to contact the IFC project manager by email or phone for feedback about the review of their LOI.
5. IFC representatives will review additional information and recommend grants by December 13, 2017, and all applicants will be called about decisions within two work days. Organizations awarded capacity building planning grants will be advised in December of the process for requesting implementation funding.

Please Include the Following in Letters of Inquiry

1. **Applicant (including fiscal sponsor) organization information.** (a) Name, address, website, phone of organization, and affirmation that the organization is a 501c3 in good standing. (b) Executive's name and contact information, as well as name, title, and contact information for person to contact with questions about the LOI. *NOTE: For organizations not previously or recently (in 2016) funded by IFC, please also provide: (c) organization mission, total income and expenses of last completed fiscal year, and brief descriptions of current programs/activities and of immigrants and/or refugees served/engaged, including geographical service area.*
2. **Fiscally sponsored project information.** Projects that are fiscally sponsored should also include: (a) project leader's name, title, and contact information, including office address. *NOTE: for organizations not previously or recently (in 2016) funded by IFC, please also*

include: (b) brief history of project, its purpose or mission, brief descriptions of current programs/ activities and of immigrants/refugees served/engaged, including geographical service area.

3. **Information about each grant category for which you are applying.** Provide one or two pages of narrative per grant category for which you are requesting funding about (a) what you want to do with IFC funding and how it would extend your work. (b) How it is consistent with the description of the grant category described above. *Requests for advocacy and organizing should specifically describe* how immigrants and/or refugees have been and will be involved in developing and leading the work for which you seek funding. (c) What kinds of outputs and outcomes you expect and the basis for your projections; you do not need to include specific goals, but should describe what would result if funded. (d) The amount you are requesting and a brief description of how funds would be used (e.g., mainly to hire a new staff person). *NOTE: For organizations not previously or recently (in 2016) funded by IFC, please also provide:* (e) organizational qualifications and capacity for this work.

About IFC

In late 2012, three foundations (The Chicago Bar Foundation, Chicago Community Trust, and Polk Bros. Foundation) agreed to begin a funders collaborative, now known as the Illinois Immigration Funders Collaborative (IFC). Between then and January 2017, a dozen local foundations and three national ones have contributed about \$3 million to IFC, allowing IFC to re-grant \$2.9 million. Most grants were made for IFC's original goal: to ensure that as many as possible of the state's DACA-eligible immigrants were able to successfully apply for temporary work permits and protection from deportation. However, as national policy shifted, so did IFC's funding, so that later grants were used for a wider array of immigration legal services and for civic engagement, as well as community education and outreach. A small percentage of funding supported field coordination and planning, and training and technical assistance for DOJ-recognized organizations.

Following the fall 2016 election, IFC hosted a number of briefings for funders about changes in immigration policy affecting immigrants and refugees, and conducted strategy development that engaged more than 50 practitioners and 20 grantmakers. The top five priorities identified were:

- Legal assistance
- Organizing and advocacy
- Capacity building
- Mental health services
- Communications

As noted above, IFC has chosen to focus on the top three of these in this year's grantmaking, and we are exploring the possibility of a small mental health initiative for next year, also. We did not choose communications as a priority because communications campaigns are very costly and while they should be informed by local groups, we believe national organizations are best suited to develop and deploy them.

IFC's main purpose is to raise and collectively allocate funds for immigrant- (and going forward, refugee-) serving nonprofit organizations to fuel their ability to promote the rights of, organize, and advocate with and for their communities. IFC's secondary activity is to design and offer programming, primarily to grantmakers and to a lesser degree, also to community organizations.

The following foundations have contributed to IFC:

Chicago Bar Foundation	Polk Bros. Foundation
Chicago Community Trust	Pritzker Traubert Foundation
Chicago Foundation for Women	Wieboldt Foundation
Crossroads Fund	Woods Fund Chicago
Lloyd A. Fry Foundation	Also
Julian Grace Foundation	-Two local funders that prefer to be anonymous
Kaplan Family Foundation	-Ford, Gates, and Open Society Foundations, via
Roy G. Kerr Foundation	Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants &
MacArthur Foundation	Refugees' <i>Deliver on the Dream</i> initiative

IFC is governed by a Steering Committee: Evette Cardona (vice president of programs, Polk Bros. Foundation), Tara Magner (director of the Chicago Commitment, MacArthur Foundation), Dina Merrell (associate director, Chicago Bar Foundation), and Alma Rodriguez (program officer, Chicago Community Trust). Alice Cottingham, an independent consultant, serves as IFC's project manager.

IFC is a donor-advised fund at the Chicago Community Foundation, an affiliate of the Chicago Community Trust.

Questions?

Contact IFC's project manager, Alice Cottingham: 708/609-9981 or alicecottingham@gmail.com.