GETTING INTO GOOD TROUBLE
CIPC 2020 IMPACT REPORT
Nothing can stop the power of a committed and determined people to make a difference in our society.

— THE LATE CONGRESSMAN JOHN LEWIS
DEAR CIPC PARTNERS,

What a year it has been!

In January, we celebrated groundbreaking campaign victories that provide protection for immigrant families. More than 100,000 young adults will have health insurance through Medi-Cal expansion. There will be permanent, greater investments in legal protective services for immigrant families, including those who have recently crossed the border, and key policies to decrease detentions and deportations will be implemented.

Our optimism was immediately put to the test as we grappled with an unprecedented year of multiple crises that peaked in the spring: a crisis of governance, the fight for Black lives and racial justice, and a vicious pandemic and related recession.

The pandemic revealed many of the vulnerabilities underlying our society, which built systems to exclude people through over incarceration, lack of access to healthcare, a digital divide, living one paycheck away from being unhoused, lack of legal status, tenuous gig employment and many other deprivations. It is pointing the way to policy changes we have needed for a long time: paid leave for all workers, universal health insurance, and good quality jobs with a basic income cushion for those who are underpaid and undervalued.

The disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on immigrants and communities of color, highlights the acute need to imagine and implement lasting solutions to the challenges that immigrants face: everything from full integration, civic participation, and inclusive economic and labor policies, to housing, health and other safety net supports via an all-encompassing racial justice lens. Our current living conditions require so much work that we cannot go back to the way things were.

However, all is not bad news this year. 2020 continues to bear witness to the courage and tenacity of immigrant and refugee families. Despite unrelenting attacks from a federal government that compound our suffering, hope and resilience remain. As you will read in this report, California delivers good news, including the inclusion of ITIN filers in the CalEITC, appropriation of an additional $10 million in community college funding; maintaining the $65 million dollar investment in legal protective services; and laying the groundwork to identify funding and an implementation date for Health4AllSeniors, which would expand Medi-Cal coverage to income-eligible undocumented seniors age 65 and older.

Robust organizing and civic engagement in various parts of the state, whether by car, on foot, or digital, has proven time and again that immigrants play an important role in sustaining the vitality of California.

We cannot have a truly meaningful recovery without including the large immigrant and refugee populations in our midst who are working on the frontlines as essential workers but are largely left out of pandemic relief.

As we say goodbye to 2020, CIPC refuses to accept two Californias, where immigrants and communities of color are condemned to live in inferior conditions. We can and must forge a vision to break with the past and work toward a future in which everyone’s dignity and humanity are upheld.

In solidarity and community,
Cynthia Buiza
Executive Director
Between the Trump administration’s cruel immigration policies, protests for racial justice catalyzed by the continuing murders of Black Americans, a global pandemic, and California’s complex legislative session, 2020 was one of the most erratic and turbulent years in recent memory. CIPC spent the better part of this year in rapid response mode navigating the COVID-19 crisis which disproportionately impacted communities of color, putting immigrants on the frontlines as essential workers on farms, in hospitals and care facilities, schools, domestic care and more—all without access to federal or state relief, PPE, or a safety net.

In 2020, CIPC continued to closely monitor bills, policy changes and budget investments that impacted worker’s rights, health equity, and detention and deportation, in an effort to strengthen the safety net. In addition to the 60 bills we tracked, CIPC led campaigns to increase tax revenue and curb local law enforcement’s power and partnership with federal immigration enforcement. We also looked at social determinants of health across the state, while convening coalitions, statewide partners, and regional advocates.

Successfully expanding California’s Earned Income Tax Credit—a proven anti-poverty tax tool—to include workers and families who file taxes with an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number. More than 600,000 immigrant families who have contributed $3.2 billion in tax support to the state but didn’t receive state and/or federal COVID-19 relief will be able to collect money to help with critical needs.

Laying the groundwork to identify funding and an implementation date for Health4AllSeniors, which would expand Medi-Cal coverage to income-eligible undocumented seniors 65 and older. As long as the federal government doesn’t have a way to support healthcare for all, California must take the lead and set examples of how states can provide health care coverage to everyone regardless of status.

Facilitating conversations with the governor’s office; encouraging new legislation to hold private detention facilities accountable via personal civil action to the individuals they harm.

Securing an additional $10 million in funding for community colleges to implement and support their own legal service programs for students and staff, while maintaining the $65 million dollar investment in legal protective services (even during a budget deficit) to provide legal counsel to individuals and families trying to navigate complicated immigration policy change.

In a year of unanticipated budget fluctuations, CIPC’s legislative advocacy mounted critical first steps to ensure immigrant communities are protected including:

Next Year
As we build our advocacy in 2021, we will continue to implement and advocate on behalf of the following laws and issues:

- The California Values Act (SB 54)
- The Safe and Responsible Drivers Act (AB 60)
- The Increasing Access to Individuals with Barriers to Employment Act (AB 1111)
- Employment Safety Standards for Household Domestic Workers
- Unemployment Rehiring and Retention in a State of Emergency
- Employers: Labor Commissioner: Required Disclosures
- Employment: Garment Manufacturing
- One California: Immigration Services and Legal Protective Services Funding
EXPANDING THE MESSAGE

In order to build understanding and amplify messaging on critical issues, CIPC published the following resources:

1. **Public Charge**
   - Know Your Rights and Messaging Toolkit

2. **COVID-19 Resource Guide For Immigrants in California**
   - A toolkit for immigrant workers and families to address intersecting issues—health, economic, and legal—during COVID-19.

3. **Honoring Black Lives, Committing to Racial Justice**
   - CIPC’s public commitment to support racial justice in our work, and create space to evaluate how we show up as allies to our Black community members

4. **Do You File Taxes with an ITIN?**
   - A CalEITC primer for immigrant workers and families who file taxes with a temporary identification number

5. **CIPC Guide to Ballot Initiatives 2020**
   - An evaluation of the eight propositions that impact immigrant communities

6. **How Can Investments in Workforce Training Meaningfully Address the Needs of Immigrant Workers?**
   - Lessons from Southern California convening and day labor worker survey

7. **What AB 60 License Holders Need to Know About Real ID**
   - A Real ID primer for immigrants with AB 60 Licenses

Throughout 2020, CIPC also addressed harsh attacks from the Trump administration with rapid response:

- SCOTUS upholds Public Charge rule and DOS rule goes into effect
- Muslim Ban
- Delay of Real ID implementation
- Federal threats to DACA
- End of TPS
- ICE tactics and mass arrests
- End of asylum
TAKING THE LEAD

TWO STATES AND A BLUEPRINT FOR THE NATION

Over the past four years, the federal government dismantled our already broken immigration system and redefined “who belongs” in America. With no clear plan from the federal administration, states like California and New York, with the largest immigrant populations, need to take the lead and model examples for other states. This year, CIPC and the New York Immigration Coalition partnered to do just that: the two organizations produced *A Blueprint for the Nation: Building Immigrant Power from California to New York* to address the issues facing immigrant communities to not only continue the progress made, but address future developments as well.

NO GOING BACK

Last spring, CIPC participated in an unprecedented gathering of civic leaders in Los Angeles County to reimagine how we can transform and emerge from the current multi-faceted crisis we are living, and learn and apply the lessons of systemic inequities.

The Committee for Greater LA was formed as a result. It is a diverse group of Angelenos who share a vision that our region’s response to the COVID pandemic can catalyze system change and dismantle the institutions and policies that have perpetuated institutional racism. It is a cross-sectoral representation of Los Angeles which includes non-profit and social change organizations, philanthropy, business, education, health, housing and youth organizations, academia and many others, and has ensured that the voices of directly impacted populations are represented in the meetings of the committee. The report, jointly authored by the UCLA Luskin School and the USC Equity Research Center presented data and policy recommendations to make sense of this moment and the way through—and out of it—and will advance an agenda that aims to build a more equitable LA for everyone.

COVER/AGE

*COVER/AGE*—a film produced by CIPC and directed by Set Hernandez Rongkiloyo—follows the Health4All movement through the stories of two undocumented leaders: one who is an elderly caregiver and another who works as a policy advocate. Featured in 11 film festivals from the East Coast to Hawaii, *COVER/AGE* has been screened in both statewide and national virtual events. An organizing tool, the film has also been used to shape conversations—from high school youth at the California Latino Youth Leadership Program to elderly domestic workers with the National Domestic Workers Alliance—in Sacramento and beyond, around immigrant health.

Film Festivals

- HAWAII INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
- WORKERS UNITE FILM FESTIVAL
- PORTLAND SILICON VALLEY ASIAN PACIFIC FILM FESTIVAL
- UC IRVINE VIRTUAL SCREENING
- AN UNDOCUMENTED LENS FILM SERIES
- SIBERIA VALLEY ASIAN PACIFIC FILM FESTIVAL
- IMMIGRATION DAY OF ACTION COMMUNITY SCREENING
- UCLA LABOR CENTER ORGAN SUMMIT
- AN UNDOCUMENTED LENS FILM SERIES
- MARCH ON WASHINGTON FILM FESTIVAL
- WORKERS UNITE FILM FESTIVAL
- CHICANO LATINO YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROJECT
- CAL POLY SLO CLASS SCREENING
- CAAMFEST FORWARD
- SCREENINGS
- NATIONAL ONLINE BROADCAST
- KPJK 60.1 SOUTH BAY (CA) BLACKSTAR FILM FESTIVAL
- Queer Film Festival
- CAAMFEST
- forward
- undocumented filmmakers collective
- Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival
- UC Berkeley Virtual Screening
- Seattle Asian American Film Festival
- Tower Theater
- Philadelphia Latino Film Festival
- New Orleans Film Festival
- San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium
- Downtown Independent Theater
CIPC’s biennial PowerUp is for advocates and organizers to discuss the future of immigrant rights post-election, celebrate our victories, and collectively re-imagine a new decade for immigrant justice.

PowerUp2020’s motto, Resilience, Reset, and Renewal, went viral reaching new audiences well beyond California, underscoring the goal, “Creating a New Future for Immigrant Justice.” The December 3-4 conference, led by keynotes Angela Glover Blackwell (CEO/Founder PolicyLink) and Linda Sarsour (co-founder MPower Change; Activist) followed by a series of plenaries and panels to address challenges impacting immigrant communities in 2021 and beyond. After a year of anxiety-inducing provocations, CIPC created a space for collaborative conversation where advocates, supporters and community members could come to reset, recharge, and PowerUp!
CIPC not only partners with legislative champions to implement protections and policies to support 11 million immigrants in California, but also convenes and engages advocates, partners, and coalitions throughout the state to build our movement’s power and base on behalf of critical pro-immigrant, social justice policy campaigns. From organizing for health care access for undocumented seniors to recognizing the contributions of all workers and Californians, our campaigns are essential to people’s health and well-being.

In addition, CIPC co-produced a report with UC Riverside; Regional Capacity and Statewide Coordination: Lessons from the Immigrant Rights Movement in California on the model project, revealing findings on best practices in building regional power.

In March, we pivoted to digital organizing due to COVID. CIPC engaged key stakeholders and broadened our base, making inroads in Sacramento that translated into policy wins in a tough year by:

- Convening the Sacramento Immigrants Rights Group, nine statewide organizations with an advocacy presence in California politics to promote pro-immigrant policy together.
- Supporting the Safety Net for All Coalition to demand that all Californians be included in critical financial relief from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.
- Co-leading the CalEITC Coalition, leading to the passage of full inclusion of ITIN tax-filers in the California Earned Income Tax Credit.
- Convening the ICE Out of CA Coalition which focused on ending the criminalization of immigrants, decreasing cooperation between local law and federal law enforcement, and implementing successful wins including the Trust Act, The Truth Act, and the California Values Act.
- Co-leading the CalEITC Coalition which secured an additional $10 million while maintaining the $65 million state budget investments in legal protective services for immigrants.
- Co-leading the Health4All Coalition dedicated to expanding Medi-Cal access to all Californians regardless of status.
- Supporting the Check the Sheriff Coalition in Los Angeles and successfully ending ICE transfers.
- Supporting the LA Justice Fund through digital actions and petitions which led to the renewed $2 million investment in legal representation and due process language translation.
- Convening the One California Coalition and Steering Committee which secured an additional $10 million while maintaining the $65 million state budget investments in legal protective services for immigrants.

In addition to these coalitions, we continued to organize with a geographically broad and diverse group of immigrant rights partners who push for local and statewide policies to address regional disparities throughout the state. Despite living in a new reality, CIPC continued to convene, and provide communications and policy support, digitally.

After eight years, CIPC’s Regional Capacity Building Project continues to serve as a model for how to build power in Sacramento. In 2020, we convened the 9 regional groups biannually to organize around critical statewide campaigns and to scenario-plan for 2021. In addition, CIPC co-produced a report with UC Riverside; Regional Capacity and Statewide Coordination: Lessons from the Immigrant Rights Movement in California on the model project, revealing findings on best practices in building regional power.

Convened statewide partners and donors monthly to provide critical state updates and address moments of crises. Conversation topics included: processing and living with COVID-19, racial equity in our work, and scenario planning post-election.
Given the nature of the pandemic, many immigrants in California were disproportionately impacted with a lack of access to critical health care, safety net programs, worker protections, and economic support through state or federal relief. Immigrant Day of Action—a day where thousands of partners, advocates, and supporters gather at the Capitol in Sacramento to share impacted stories and lobby for reform and vital policies—was critical this year, and took place online.

**POLICY PLATFORMS**

- Expanding Medi-Cal Access to All Californians who Qualify, Regardless of Immigration Status (SB 29, Durazo; AB 4, Arambula; co-sponsored by CIPC and Health Access)
- Extending the California Earned Income Tax Credit to ITIN Filers (AB 1593, Reyes; co-sponsored by CIPC, United Ways of CA, Children’s Defense Fund CA)
- Expanding Existing Workforce Protections to Include Domestic Workers through the Health and Safety for All Workers Act (SB 1257, Durazo; co-sponsored by California Domestic Workers Coalition, Worksafe, California Employment Lawyers Association, and Equal Rights Advocates)
- Ending Parole-Eligible Transfers to immigration enforcement through the “Voiding Inequality and Seeking Inclusion for Our Immigrant Neighbors” (VISION) Act (AB 2596, Bonta; co-sponsored by Asian Law Caucus, Asian Americans Advancing Justice with the ICE Out of CA Coalition)

**EARNED MEDIA**

- Nonprofits Go Remote: Chronicle of Philanthropy
- Undocumented Immigrants and Coronavirus Relief
- La Opinion, CalEITC
- Interview with Northern California Organizer Sandhya Nadadur
- Organizing Community During Covid-19

The Largest Day of Digital Action in the Country

- 1000 Participants
- 100+ Legislative Visits
- 25.7K Impressions
- Social media engagement through FB Live, increased stories on Instagram, and new followers to all platforms.

- Trending #1 in CA
- 297 unique accounts using #ImmigrantDay2020
- 145 engagements on top mention

JOIN US

Immigrant Day of Action May 11, 2020

Online Day of Action

Click to watch!
The question of who gets to live in the United States was a hot-button topic in 2020 and key developments came at breakneck speed, with reporters frequently asking CIPC to comment on state and federal immigration policy. This year, CIPC made a concerted effort to demystify xenophobic policy changes. We connected with La Opinion, El Tecolote, Radio Bilingue, and other local affiliates on important stories around DACA, COVID relief, Immigrant Day of Action, and statewide legislation that directly impacted immigrants.

In addition, CIPC developed meaningful relationships with reporters through in-person and virtual briefings on immigration campaigns and celebrations, leading to valuable media relationships with journalists at The Wall Street Journal, the San Francisco Chronicle, Reuters, USA Today, and the Los Angeles Times.

As a result, we were able to increase media coverage of our messaging on critical policies and legislation, as well as uncover new opportunities to connect directly with reporters on our campaign and organizing initiatives:

- In our push to expand the California Earned Income Tax Credit, CIPC successfully pitched the editorial boards of The Sacramento Bee, the San Francisco Chronicle, and the Los Angeles Times to call on state leadership to expand the CalEITC to ALL tax filers.
- CIPC experts wrote four “Letters to the Editor,” published in the Los Angeles Times, promoting health care access and calling for an end to federal immigration detention and enforcement.
- National coverage of our work and our expertise increased by reaching a broader audience through outlets like Vox and The New Republic.

CIPC’s digital media strategy flourished in 2020. Our audience growth more than doubled on both Twitter and Instagram placing CIPC in categories with larger partners.
CIPC continued convening social justice advocates as part of its Regional Communications Hubs program to build a communications infrastructure in three regions: the Central Valley, Inland Empire, and the Central Coast with trainings on media proficiency, rapid response, and narrative framework. This year, CIPC focused its training on strategic and digital communications to build skills around framing and messaging, touching upon storytelling for advocacy, values-based messages related to COVID-19, and best practices for social media. CIPC tailored messaging to each region based on core campaigns and issue areas—including Census 2020, crimimmigration, undocufunds, public charge, health equity and more—emphasizing effective outreach and engagement, and growing online audiences.

In light of COVID and the onslaught of rapid response moments, the Communications team dedicated weekly time to supporting members of the hubs with pressing questions on messaging and digital strategy. In this way CIPC was not only able to support these regional centers but also amplify critical messaging on federal abuses, and core campaign and safety net issues.

The Immigration Strategic Messaging Project is a collaborative, multi-organization research effort to reach new audiences. Since its inception, the ISMP team has conducted some of the most extensive messaging research in the immigrant justice movement, including significant “firsts” with deep canvassing, addressable TV ad testing, and two-way texting on immigration issues. Along the way, the research has pinpointed key messaging strategies to tell a new story about immigrants and immigration that can be applied in community and digital organizing, traditional communications, and work with media and popular culture. This year the team has put these strategies into practice in two California counties and 10 states, and witnessed powerful persuasion rates of the magnitude that win elections. We have reached more than 13,000 Orange and Fresno County residents with persuasive communications (e.g. pro-immigrant messaging, video, TV ad, or phone/door-to-door canvass conversation) in the last 2.5 years alone. With these impactful results and rich experience in hand, the team is sharing lessons with movement partners to expand the reach and impact of narrative strategies that work.

In 2 1/2 years we have...

- Reached people in 10 states and 2 California counties with persuasive communications
- Developed and tested 16 different pro-immigrant videos and TV ads centering the voices of 24+ spokespeople and storytellers.
- Measurably increased support for multiple policies that improve quality of life for and reduced prejudice toward undocumented immigrants, with impacts lasting at least 3-6 months.
- Generated dozens of calls and emails to the CA state governor and legislators in support of Health4All legislation in 2020.
- Front line leaders trained in CA and TN in deep conversation skills.
Twice a year CIPC gathers community—supporters, friends, family, advocates, donors, legislative leadership, journalists, and partners—to celebrate, galvanize, and fundraise. Kicking off this year’s advocacy and centering trailblazers advancing equity and justice for BIPOC and immigrant communities, we hosted “I Love immigrants” dinners in Los Angeles, Oakland, and Sacramento to highlight our strategic messaging work and empower supporters and partners to take action in advancing economic and health care policies that create a California where everyone can thrive. After the legislative session came to a close this Fall, CIPC organized a virtual Policy & Paletas social to revel in our collective power and uplift innovative artists and advocates who have used their platforms to organize for immigrant rights and social change. Despite the many challenges 2020 presented, it was important to reflect upon advancements in the work, build strength with community, and understand the work ahead.
INVESTING IN THE MOVEMENT

- **Fundraising**: 8% ($305,738)
- **Management and General**: 16% ($611,105)
- **Messaging, Research, & Communications**: 18% ($705,935)
- **Organizing and Policy**: 31% ($1,220,257)
- **Other Program Expenses**: 27% ($1,079,306)
- **Total Program Services**: 76% ($3,005,498)

**Total Expenses**: $3,922,341
For more than two decades, CIPC has been keenly dedicated to advocating for policies that uphold immigrants’ humanity and dignity. Much of our longevity is primarily attributed to the support of our partners in the philanthropic community, who have invested in our vision and work. With your support, we’ve been able to carry out our mission and successfully advocate for some of the most progressive policies that directly impact immigrant communities in our state. Our advocacy seeks to help build a robust and powerful immigrant justice infrastructure in California and paves the way for an immigrant rights movement that is both responsive and transformative.

The current pandemic, coupled with hostility from a federal administration towards undocumented immigrants, unveiled the depths of racial and economic injustice against marginalized communities and the critical need for systemic reform and advanced policies. Despite recent challenges, CIPC has managed to remain resilient. Because of your valued support, our work resulted in some of the most distinguished and groundbreaking victories this year:

› Ensuring that pandemic relief benefits were inclusive of immigrant families
› Income-eligible young adults were able to access healthcare for the first time in California
› Mounting a powerful statewide campaign against the proposed expansion of the public charge rule
› The California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC) was extended to immigrant workers who file taxes with an ITIN, putting money back into the pockets of low-income workers and families helping them afford basic necessities

The support, faith, and confidence of our funders have made it possible for us to weather these difficult times, stay resilient and sustain our work to pursue a vision that centers the humanity of immigrant families and create a just and humane California where everyone’s dignity is upheld. In the next year, we commit to strive to make an even greater and inclusive California.

From the CIPC team, our Board of Directors, and our stakeholders, we would like to extend our deep gratitude to the following funding partners:

› BlueShield of California Foundation
› The Beacon Fund
› California Community Foundation
› California Healthcare Foundation
› The California Wellness Foundation
› The California Endowment
› The Grove Foundation
› Evelyn and Walter Haas Jr. Fund
› Heising- Simons Foundation
› The Hellman Family
› James Irvine Foundation
› Luminate
› Open Society Foundation
› Rosenberg Foundation
› San Francisco Foundation
› Silicon Valley Community Foundation
› Sunlight Giving
› Weingart Foundation
› Zellerbach Foundation
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