In 2019, the Colorado Immigrant Funders Collaborative (CIFC) extended additional resources to 12 previously supported small community organizations, providing them with general operating support. This allowed these grassroots organizations to continue to meet challenges faced by immigrants and refugees around safety, civil rights, mental health, and community belonging—exacerbated challenges brought on by extended anti-immigrant policies and rhetoric. In addition, CIFC provided seed funding for an innovative pilot project that would provide Forensic Mental Health Assessments (FMHA) to detainees in the Aurora ICE/GEO detention center. Services were successfully provided by CIFC grantee La Cocina (in Fort Collins) through the Mind Over Border project, outlined on page 3.
The Colorado Funders Collaborative (CIFC) along with national partners Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees (GCIR) formed CIFC in 2015 to engage and encourage national and statewide funders to support immigrants and refugees at a time when rhetoric and policies are instilling fear, separating families, causing economic instability and increasing mental health issues among individuals, families and communities.

Since 2016, CIFC has provided responsive grantmaking to address the critical needs of immigrants and refugees across Colorado and provided over $800,000 in funding to nonprofits serving immigrants and refugees. Through in-depth grantee reporting, CIFC has come to realize the importance of strengthening this sector from the ground up. Prior to 2016, many of Colorado's immigrant-serving organizations operated on "shoestring" budgets and had limited organizational and leadership capacity due to limited funding in this space. Since 2016, funding has increased and produced a critical impact that has stabilized organizations and given them the ability to respond to national policies, anti-immigrant and refugee rhetoric and localized community issues. While rapid response grants were necessities in past years, strategic investments that build up the sector is critical moving forward.

For 2020, CIFC looks ahead to further investing in current grantees, particularly small- and medium-sized organizations with operating budgets under $500,000 and continuing to provide general operating support to create social and systemic change by focusing on the following:

- Increasing immigrant leaders who can shape better community environments and support improved models for immigrant integration.
- Continuing to support immigrant/refugee serving organizations through general operating support or capacity building support that leads to sustainability; and
- Supporting projects/activities that contribute to social cohesion

**WHERE DID CIFC FUND IN 2019?**

- Denver (4)
- Aurora
- Antonito
- Palisade
- Longmont
- Colorado Springs
- Glenwood Springs & Mtn Region
- Fort Collins

For 2019, CIFC was supported through 13 Funder Members including Abarca Family Fund, Aspen Community Foundation, Bamboo Foundation, Bretty Family Foundation, The Denver Foundation, the Goldstein Fund, the Latino Community Foundation of CO, Lederer Foundation, Mile High United Way, New York City Trust, Rose Community Foundation, Voqal Foundation and the Women's Foundation of Colorado.
"The funding allows us to offer direct assistance with health care access, including to people experiencing behavioral health problems and trauma. We utilize the funds to help us work with individuals and families in the office and in diverse settings including clinics, hospitals and doctors' offices."

"It has had a huge impact ... it makes it possible to continue."

"As a group, most of our members have families and struggle economically, so being able to have funding to pay for trainings, meals, and transportation makes a huge difference."

"One of the best parts about being released from detention is that I am treated like a human being again."

Mind Over Border (MOB) is a first of its kind pilot initiative to provide critical culturally-relevant mental health services to Latino immigrants who are detained, seeking asylum, and actively undergoing immigration proceedings or deportation proceedings.

Spearheaded by La Cocina in Larimer County in Northern Colorado, MOB both directly serves immigrants and their families and leads the way in forming a statewide network-based cohort that would make standardized culturally and linguistically relevant Forensic Mental Health Assessments (FMHAs) and baseline behavioral support care to every Colorado Latino immigrant and detainee in need. FMHAs are vital to proceedings of immigrants as they serve to document and legitimize immigrants’ dire need for refuge and asylum in the US.

PILOT YEAR PROGRESS

- Engaged with policy makers and community leaders to support immigration reform, including access to healthcare services for asylum seekers and those in deportation/detention proceedings.
- Mental Health impact on 225 families
- Created a five-year plan for statewide growth

To learn more or find out how you can join the collaborative, please contact:

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