



# California Immigrant Integration Initiative (CIII)

*A forum for peer learning and public-private partnerships*

CIII seeks to develop a comprehensive immigrant integration agenda and to strengthen the immigrant integration infrastructure in local communities across California. The initiative was organized in 2003 and currently involves 27 statewide and local funders. Through a partnership with the Institute for Local Governments, CIII also engages municipal and county governments in its efforts. In a time of significantly reduced public and philanthropic resources, CIII provides funders a forum to identify strategic partnership and funding opportunities and work together to leverage the influence and impact of their leadership and grant dollars.

## CURRENT INITIATIVES

In 2009, CIII has three priority areas of work:

- Maximizing the participation of hard-to-count communities in the 2010 Census
- Expanding citizenship services, including ESL, legal services, and application assistance
- Increasing the strategic communications capacity of immigrant organizations

## PUBLISHED REPORTS

- *Integration Potential of California's Immigrants and Their Children: New Estimates of Potential New Voters at the State, County, and Legislative District Levels*
- *The Need to Expand Immigrant Legal Services in Northern California*

- *The Vital Role of Community Colleges in the Education and Integration of Immigrants*
- *Ensuring California's Health: The Imperative for Culturally and Linguistically Competent Health Care* (to be published summer 2009)

## ACTIVITIES

- Generate and disseminate data and information about California immigrants and their integration needs.
- Engage diverse stakeholder groups, from foundations to advocates to local governments, in responding to these needs at the local and state levels.
- Encourage the identification and development of public policy, as well as community-based and private-sector solutions to promote immigrant integration.
- Promote funder coordination, collaboration, and leadership to advance immigrant integration in California.

## PROJECT FUNDERS

Current funders include: Evelyn & Walter Haas, Jr. Fund, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Rosenberg Foundation, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, The California Endowment, The San Francisco Foundation, Van Löben Sels/RembeRock Foundation, and Zellerbach Family Foundation. CIII involves another 19 foundations in our work.

### *What is immigrant integration?*

Immigrant integration is a dynamic, two-way process in which newcomers and the receiving society work together to build secure, vibrant, and cohesive communities.

## ABOUT GCIR

GCIR is a resource and a catalyst that enables foundations to better understand and address the challenges and opportunities that come with immigration. Our goal is to promote effective grantmaking that improves the lives of immigrants and refugees and strengthens local communities. For more information on GCIR and CIII, please contact Rebecca Dames at 213.346.3275 or [rebecca@gcir.org](mailto:rebecca@gcir.org).