

# IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION FUNDING GUIDE

## Immigrant Integration and Funding Opportunities

Immigrant integration is an equal partnership between newcomers and the receiving community who work together to make their community more inclusive. As trusted members in the community, immigration legal service providers play a key role in promoting integration. Nonprofits that engage in integration efforts in addition to legal services increase capacity, expand their services, work with all members in the community, and thus, have an increase in opportunities to additional/alternate funding streams.

For many charitable-based immigration legal services, obtaining consistent funding is crucial to providing legal services to the immigrant community. Despite its importance, immigration law is complex, causing it to be too narrow of a focus for some funders. Nonetheless, immigration service providers can expand their focus through the integration projects and initiatives that benefit immigrants and the wider community.

For example, immigration benefits are often accompanied by work authorization. A funder may be less interested in immigration but very supportive of anti-poverty, ready-to-work programs — especially for limited English proficient people entering the workforce. Similarly, a funder may not know about the immigration provisions of the Violence Against Women Act, or VAWA, but would be willing to fund the legal work knowing it enables survivors to make decisions more freely and safely for their futures and those of their children — thus breaking the cycle of violence.

When researching and establishing partnerships with funders and foundations, it is important to ensure that your organization's missions and values align with the mission and values of the funder. In addition to meeting the basic eligibility for grant opportunities, an organization should have a strong proposal, clear project goals and objectives, and systems in place for measurement and evaluation. This guide offers helpful grant websites, resources, and tips as your organization prepares to promote immigrant integration and apply for funding.

## Integration-Specific Grant Websites

- [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services](#) – The Citizenship and Integration Grant Program funds organizations that work with lawful permanent residents prepare for their U.S. citizenship.
- [Russell Sage Foundation](#) – In addition to prioritizing race and inequality issues, the Russell Sage Foundation supports research on immigration and immigrant integration.
- [Charles Koch Foundation](#) – From criminal justice to education to immigration, the Charles Koch Foundation funds general proposals from organizations that share their goals and vision “of removing barriers that prevent communities from reaching their full potential.”

## National Organizations

Check for opportunities among national organizations. Occasionally, [CLINIC's Center for Immigrant Integration](#) funds integration-related activities across its network. Learn more about [becoming a CLINIC affiliate](#).

## Other National Organizations

Like New Americans Economy and Welcoming America also fund proposals that promote inclusion and welcoming, such as the [Gateways for Growth Challenge](#).

## State and Local Government

Visit your local county or state webpage and do a general search for “*funding and grants.*” State and local governments often offer grant and funding opportunities to local nonprofits, either through a specific department or generally through a “community grant” or “county grant.” The following localities have previously provided funding to promote immigrant integration:

- [County of Santa Clara: Division of Equity and Social Justice](#)
- [Austin, Texas: The Equity Office](#)
- [New York City, N.Y.: Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs](#)
- [Denver, Colo.: Immigrant Integration Sponsorship Program](#)

## CLINIC Immigrant Integration Resources

[CLINIC’s Center for Immigrant Integration \(CII\)](#) – To learn more about how your organization can promote immigrant integration within your agency and community, visit our webpage to access toolkits, podcasts, white papers, survey assessments and organizational inspirations. Sign up to CII’s [Inclusive Communities: Immigrant Integration and Public Education Resources](#) to be informed on all integration related news, resources and updates.

## Other Grant Websites and Resources

- [Community Foundation Locator](#) – Find community foundations in your area by clicking on the map. You can view a map of all accredited community foundations on the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations website.
- [Candid](#) – Select the “Find Funding information.” Once there, you can search the foundation directory online by using searching a specific funder or an organization location. Feel free to browse the other tools offered by Candid.
- [Grants.Gov](#) - Website for federal grants. Making an account is free and their search engine allows you to filter criteria. For example, you can search by agency, eligibility, funding type and category.
- [Catholic Funding Guide](#) – A network of over 2,000 funders that have a history of supporting various issues, such as education and social services. There is an annual fee of \$145 for the year in order to gain access to the guide.
- [W.K. Kellogg Foundation](#) - Priorities are thriving children; working families; and equitable communities.
- [Public Welfare Foundation](#) – Investing in nonprofits that are advancing a new, transformative system of justice with the core values of racial equity, economic well-being and fundamental fairness for all.
- [Catholic Campaign for Human Development](#) – CCHD has three grant programs: the Community Development Grant, Economic Development Grant and the Strategic National Grant. The grant opportunities support efforts that demonstrate a commitment to the dignity of the human person.
- [GrantsforUS](#) – Latest and upcoming grants for nonprofit organizations, community foundations and faith-based organizations.

## Searching For Grants

While your organization will want to apply to grants that are specific to supporting and advocating immigrant communities and families, feel free to apply for opportunities that do not identify a specific population. Below are a few general topics that can include immigrant communities:

- Healthy Families and Communities
- Citizenship and Integration
- Civic and Community Engagement
- Community Organizing
- Public Safety
- Inclusion and Diversity
- Community Education
- Neighborhood Revitalization & Support Services
- Entrepreneurship & Small Businesses
- Job Readiness Skills
- Leadership Development
- Economic and Social Development
- Women and Children
- Capacity Building
- Strengthening Democracy

## Additional Helpful Resources

- [Community Tool Box: Applying for Grants](#) – This free toolkit breaks down the process of the grant writing process, tips for writing the grant application, checklist for following funders’ guidelines and grant application examples.
- [Essential Grant Writing Tips for Your Nonprofit](#) – These five tips will maximize the effectiveness of your grant proposal.