The principal of subsidiarity encourages integration in partnership with CLINIC’s extensive and diverse national network of immigrant assisting nonprofits. Faced with immediate legal needs, broader work on promoting immigrant integration and creating cohesive integrated communities is often overlooked. Scarce resources, lack of awareness or misunderstanding the definition of integration and what it looks like are all contributing factors. However, the importance of integration cannot be overstated. The integration of immigrants both among themselves and with their receiving communities directly affects the overall well-being of families for generations. Their new hometowns and the nation as a whole will benefit from immigrant integration.

The NIEP serves to promote integration in traditionally underserved, under-resourced areas where anti-immigrant sentiment is a reality and a challenge. This funding is made possible by a multi-year grant from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, known as CCHD. CCHD was created in 1970 by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to attack and break the cycle of poverty that passes from generation to generation, by empowering low-income people to participate in decisions that affect their lives, families, and communities. CCHD “helps people help themselves”

BACKGROUND

The Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc., announces the National Immigrant Empowerment Project, or NIEP, a multi-year project that provides financial and technical assistance to eight selected affiliates (Catholic members and non-Catholic subscribers) to promote the full exercise of rights and responsibilities of immigrants.

CLINIC’s funding, for up to four years, will be for affiliates to hire one, full-time Community Organizer and appoint and provide a stipend to one member of the local immigrant community as a Community Liaison (The role of Community Liaison is commonly referred to in Spanish as Promotor, meaning a member of the target community who works with and empowers fellow community members to engage in local advocacy efforts). Community Liaisons are members from the target community who join with their neighbors to create relationships built on trust. Together, they will mobilize low-income immigrant communities and their supporters to create social change based on local needs. Funding will also provide a small stipend for a summer intern position and leadership training for the Community Organizer and Community Liaison.

Immigrant integration falls squarely in line with Catholic social teaching and the ideas that the Catholic Church promotes around human dignity, family and community.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

National Immigrant Empowerment Project (NIEP)

(CLINIC is accepting Letters of Intent for NIEP through May 10, 2019)

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to move beyond poverty. For more information about CCHD, visit its website: usccb.org/about/catholic-campaign-for-human-development/grants/strategic-national-grant-program.cfm.

The term immigrant in this document refers to all foreign-born individuals who live in the United States and does not suggest documented status. While funding for this initiative comes from a Catholic source, grants are not restricted based on religious affiliation. The NIEP will be funded and managed separately from the current CCHD National Impact Project. Participation in the latter will not exclude proposals for NIEP funding.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project will identify and train additional immigrant leaders and develop existing but underutilized infrastructure in support of integration efforts. This project has been designed to promote immigrant leadership, immigrant-led grassroots organizing, and technical assistance primarily in rural, underserved locations. The Community Organizer will support local immigrant leaders and community members in their efforts to establish a network of people who are eager to work on organizing integration initiatives. The Community Organizer serves in a role of liaison to the affiliate agencies to facilitate the selection and training of immigrant leaders. CLINIC will respect these immigrant communities’ ability to do their own work and encourage them to continue to do so.

Priority will be given to affiliates that lack the resources to fully coordinate and implement integration strategies in spite of having the basic infrastructure and staff. In addition, a factor could be that the agency is being stymied by anti-immigrant sentiment and policies on the national and local levels. Once hired by the affiliate, the Community Organizer will identify at least one Community Liaison to serve as a key point of contact with the local immigrant community. Taking on various roles, Community Liaisons advocate for program development and engage with their own communities and city governments on integration initiatives. As local leaders for change, Community Liaisons train other immigrants about their rights and educate the local receiving community about the immigration process and immigrants’ rights. The Community Organizer and Community Liaison will work together on locally relevant social change efforts. These needs will be identified through focus groups, surveys and other communication efforts.

**PROJECT PRIORITY**

This is a capacity building grant. CLINIC aims to increase the capacity of its network to work with the foreign-born community on leadership development and community organizing in an effort to bring about social change at the local level. A successful application will have a well-constructed proposal to work with foreign-born people who directly experience economic or social injustices that perpetuate poverty, family separation and systems that disregard the needs and voices of the foreign-born.

This project supports the dignity of the human person. Successful applications will demonstrate involvement and leadership development of immigrants who live in poverty locally. Chosen proposals will demonstrate a commitment and developed plan to nurture solidarity between the poor and non-poor, and facilitate the participation of people who live in poverty in the decisions that perpetuate poverty in their lives.

CLINIC will give priority to organizations, ideas, proposals and activities that promote self-sufficiency and self-determination for people who are working to bring permanent and positive change to their communities. Applicants are required to use community organizing strategies as the primary way in which this change will be accomplished.

Successful applications will incorporate effective leadership development for immigrants. This training will ensure that the local low-income foreign-born population gains the skills, experience and confidence to participate effectively both within the organization and in the wider civic arena.

Low-income people have both the right and the responsibility to participate in planning, decision-making and implementation of the projects and programs designed to improve their communities. A successful application will include a detailed explanation of your agency’s structure and current and planned efforts to
maintain/improve participation from this subset of the local population.

Positive consideration will be given to applicants who demonstrate the capacity to do the following:
1. Create or strengthen existing links to Catholic and other faith-based communities. Organizations should consider how their activities reach out and involve the Catholic community. Priority will be given to proposals which lead to greater diocesan and parish engagement with activities and participation in organizations which clearly carry out CCHD’s mission and foundations.
2. Generate cooperation among and within diverse groups, in the interest of a more integrated and mutually benefitting community.
3. Benefit a relatively large number of people, rather than a few individuals.

A. Strategic Scope and Focus
Grants will focus on social justice challenges that are locally relevant. Acceptable social justice topics are those that have been neglected and have regional and/or national dimensions that may make a significant impact on reducing poverty. These grants should anticipate, look forward, and bring new energy or urgency to factors which contribute to poverty on a substantial scale.

GRANT INFORMATION

A. Duration
Each of the eight grants given is budgeted at $180,000 for 17 quarters. The project is expected to begin Oct. 1, 2019 (one quarter) and continue through 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023. Funding for the last three quarters of 2023 will be reduced by approximately 35% to encourage local sustainability efforts.

Additional details are as follows:
• This funding supports a Community Organizer position within the affiliate agency in the following amounts: $10,000 in the 4th quarter of 2019, $40,000 a year for 2020, 2021 and 2022, and $25,000 in Year 5 2023.
• This funding supports a stipend of $5,000 a year for 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 for a Community Liaison position.
• Funding will be provided for professional development for both the organizer and Community Liaison in Year 2.
• Funding will include a small stipend in 2022 for a summer intern position.

B. Target issues
This funding opportunity focuses on social change and leadership development of immigrant leaders. It does not aim to create new services offered by the agency. Instead, it aims to empower those who are directly impacted to pursue social justice changes that will affect their own lives and communities.

This funding opportunity seeks to launch new organizing efforts in immigrant communities, or when appropriate, the possibility of expanding existing efforts. This funding opportunity seeks to support efforts that are consistent with Catholic social teaching.

Target issues for social change are not limited to immigration or immigrant policy-related efforts, although that is an allowable focus area. Examples of other allowable focus areas include but are not limited to the following:
• Environmental conditions for families in low-income communities
• Decrease of urban youth despair and violence
• Reduce economic pressures on growing families
• Increase of affordable housing
• Reduce mass incarceration
• Increase parental involvement in public education
• Racism and the impacts of racism
• Policies that harm families and contribute to poverty
• Creating welcoming and inclusive communities
• Counter anti-immigrant polices

C. Grant Requirements
To be considered for participation in the NIEP, organizations must:
• Be a CLINIC affiliate in good standing;
• Adhere to the same guidelines and legal requirements of current CCHD community development and economic development grants;
• Establish the means for immigrant participation to redistribute decision-making powers and/or participate in restructuring systems that impede social justice at the local, state and/or national levels;
• Pursue actions that don’t contravene Catholic social teaching;
• Involve community participation in the priority-setting work of the agency by consulting with stakeholders, immigrant leaders, supporting community members, etc. to have a thoughtful process to identify the likely issues around which to organize.
• Submit a Letter of Intent worksheet so that CLINIC can decide which affiliates to invite for a full-proposal leading to the selection of eight grant awards.

D. All grantees will be expected to
1. Sign a Memorandum of Understanding with CLINIC.
2. Participate and possibly present in required trainings.
3. Use required templates and forms for reports and other work products.
4. Submit semi-annual reports and other work products on time.
5. Complete surveys or other data collection tools when distributed.
6. Avoid engaged in activities that run counter to Catholic social teaching.
7. Complete evaluations and allow site visits with community leaders and members who are affected by the grant.

E. Financial Stability
The organization should be able to demonstrate a vision for sustaining the project after CLINIC’s funding ends. This may include membership dues, donations, event fees, foundation or corporate support, and/or other methods for fundraising.

E. Expected Outcomes

Outcomes for Performance Data
To track the success of this project, CLINIC will monitor and report on:
• The process established for community engagement and identifying local immigrant community needs in the select locations.
• The development of a robust Community Liaison network and a network of immigrant community leaders that train the local community on immigrant rights.
• Increased and visible immigrant-led organizing efforts at the local level.
• Steps at the agency level that support immigrant-led organizing on integration, including leadership development opportunities, agency goals and strategic planning that reflect integration priorities, as well as increased agency awareness of integration and how to work with the community in promoting it.
• Immigrant-led campaigns engaging with local officials on integration efforts.
• Planning to sustain funding for the project after the period concludes.

CLINIC expects the impact of this project will include:
• Immigrants participate in activities to help shape policies that affect the communities in which they live.
• Immigrants receive high-quality services that are responsive to their needs.
• Immigrants work alongside receiving community members to improve their communities and the systems that affect their lives.
• Receiving community members and immigrants feel a sense of belonging and security.
• Receiving community members value the contributions of immigrants and do not discriminate against them.
• Receiving community members and immigrants engage in ongoing cultural and social exchange.

F. Organizational Expectations
To help selected affiliates make local organizing efforts meaningful and successful, CLINIC can be expected to:
1. Conduct a comprehensive assessment of each partner’s program development needs through scheduled phone calls.
2. Create a CLINIC reporting form for partners to use.
3. Offer training opportunities for partner programs.
4. Provide a full menu of technical assistance services, including: immigrant integration project design, integration measurement support, program management training, website resources, monthly newsletter, e-mail updates, annual Convening and any other assistance needed throughout the course of the project.
5. Provide partners with sample job descriptions for the Community Organizer, Community Liaison, and summer intern positions
6. Assist partners with identifying prospective funders and with writing proposals sustainability plans, particularly for 2023, which will provide reduced funding from CLINIC.
7. Facilitate sharing of resources and best practices between partners, CLINIC’s network and others.
8. Conduct, at a minimum, quarterly conference calls with partners to track progress, challenges and requests for technical assistance.
APPLICATION INFORMATION

A successful application will include facts about local circumstances and needs. The application will include a concise yet informative analysis on the agency’s capacity to deliver the proposed objectives and include program objectives and goals that are consistent with that capacity. CLINIC expects to see a work plan in the proposal that delineates responsibilities, processes and expected outcomes with a timeline for the project period.

CLINIC expects leadership development of immigrants to be a central component of an applicant’s project proposal. Applicant organizations should demonstrate a strong and well-thought out plan and commitment to the ongoing development of immigrant leaders. Plans for training may include power analysis, government structures for policy and funding, community organizing methods and skills, event planning, measuring outputs and outcomes and fundraising. Training should focus on equipping members with skills in the field of community improvement and advocacy.

CLINIC also expects an organization to demonstrate interest in, and a plan to incorporate the input of immigrants into agency-level decision-making structures. Successful applicants will describe what opportunities currently exist within the agency’s infrastructure for participation by the immigrant community and what the goals and outcomes are for the grant period.

CLINIC expects partnerships to be a central component of a successful application. Local non profits, religious institutions, local and state government entities, etc. are all partners that can add value to the work of community organizing and leadership development. If partnerships don’t currently exist, a detailed partnership development plan will need to be included. For the complete project application form including the project budget with budget narrative, project work plan template, please visit the project page.

A. Application Process

CLINIC staff will first solicit and review completed Letter of Intent worksheets. These are due by May 10, 2019. By June 7, 2019, successful applicants will be invited to submit a full grant proposal. Full grant proposals will be due by Aug. 9, 2019.

Full proposals will be reviewed and assessed by CLINIC staff using established metrics. Local Catholic diocesan bishops will be informed of any local agency chosen for this project to seek their input on the final decision.

B. 2019 Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event/Deadline</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Informational webinar about funding opportunity</td>
<td>April 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Letters of intent worksheets and attachments due</td>
<td>May 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Invitations to submit a full proposal</td>
<td>June 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full proposals due</td>
<td>Aug. 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding notification</td>
<td>Sept. 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project start date</td>
<td>Oct. 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Initial Project Conference Call</td>
<td>Oct. 17</td>
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C. Funding Disbursements

Funds will be disbursed quarterly following submitted project reports and completed grant requirements for that project period.

LETTER OF INTENT FORMAT

Interested affiliates should complete the worksheet found on the project page. To download the worksheet log in to the project page using your CLINIC affiliate username. Please limit your responses to a total of three pages.

The deadline for submitting the Letter of Intent is 11:59 p.m. ET on May 10, 2019. Full applications are by invitation only and must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. ET on Aug. 9, 2019. Please email completed worksheets to Project Coordinator Laura Nino-Berry at lnino@cliniclegal.org. You will receive a confirmation of receipt upon submission.

Please visit the NIEP’s project page for more information: cliniclegal.org/niep.