

# Immigration -

## Community Conversation Proceedings

November 14, 2016  
Belmont Conference Center  
550 Island Parkway  
Belmont, California

### Background

This document summarizes key themes and discussion points shared during the Immigration community conversation as part of Silicon Valley Community Foundation's Grantmaking Review process. This is the third of six community conversations convened by the community foundation as part of this project. A total of 91 participants attended the convening; it was by far the largest convening so far, representing public agencies, donors, and nonprofit organizations that work to integrate immigrants and advocates for immigrant and refugee rights. In addition, various representatives of SVCF's leadership team attended the community conversation, including CEO and President, Emmett Carson, Chief Community Impact Officer, Erica Wood, and Manuel Santamaria, Vice President, Strategic Initiatives and Grantmaking.

### OVERVIEW OF GRANTMAKING REVIEW PROCESS

The grantmaking strategic review process is intended to be both a look back at what SVCF has achieved with its grantmaking investments since 2008, as well as a look forward to assess and understand where there are emerging opportunities for SVCF to make a positive difference for our community through grantmaking. The review process will provide SVCF's staff and board of directors with the information necessary to determine whether to stay the course with our grantmaking, make adjustments or direct our investments to new strategic areas of concern. Decisions based on this review process will be announced in October 2017.

### STRUCTURE OF COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Each community conversation follows a similar model, designed to provide participants with a common context and framing for productive discussion. SVCF's CEO and President, Emmett Carson, and Chief Community Impact Officer, Erica Wood, opened the conversation with a welcome, provided an overview of SVCF's impact data related to immigration and introduced the three critical questions participants were being asked to discuss:

- What are the most effective solutions to help support immigrants to fully participate in all aspects of our communities?
- How can we more effectively remove structural barriers to allow immigrants to engage and thrive in our communities?
- What creative, innovative, or non-traditional approaches might we consider to support immigrants' upward economic mobility and advance progress on pressing immigrant issues?

Shiree Teng and Miguel Gavaldon of the consulting team, Teng & Smith, Inc., provided instructions on the expectations and group agreements for breakout circles. Participants were invited to self-select one group to engage in direct conversations with each other through facilitated small-group discussions and rotate after a 40-minute discussion to provide the opportunity to answer two of the three questions.

SVCF staff was present in the breakout circles as either notetakers/scribes or listeners only. After small group discussions were over, participants reconvened as a large group where SVCF staff provided information about next steps in the grantmaking review process and reminded participants to check [www.siliconvallecf.org/svcfgrants](http://www.siliconvallecf.org/svcfgrants) for more information. All aspects of the conversations were recorded by notetakers and then synthesized for the community foundation to take under consideration.

## COMMUNITY CONVERSATION THEMES

Participants welcomed the opportunity to share and connect with each other and to provide input by focusing on the field of immigration as a whole and not just specifically on one issue or as one nonprofit in one sector of the issue. Teng and Smith, Inc. transcribed participants' post-it notes, as well as the notetakers'/scribes' own observations and reflections, providing for a rich and detailed summation of each question.

Given the wealth of information gathered, SVCF decided to organize the data to be most faithful to participants' ideas, which are presented in the following pages. However, the most common themes on how SVCF can use its influence in the sector were:

- *Stand in solidarity* with immigrant communities. Encourage and support others to do this too.
- Advocate within philanthropy – build bridges with donors and other foundations - to *secure and increase funding to support immigrant communities*.
- *Take strategic positions that reflect both a long-term and short-term* perspective on the sector and a changing political environment.
- *Anchor the sector in a healthy sustainable core* in the face of a changing political environment.
- *Advocate with state and local governments* to help create a welcoming policy environment for immigrant communities.
- *Integrate organizing and advocacy into direct and legal service organizations*.
- *Support safe spaces and dissemination of accurate information* within immigrant communities. Conversely, support the dissemination of accurate information to challenge negative narratives of immigrants and to build bridges. Act as a hub for research and information.
- *Continue to build power and support leadership in immigrant communities*. Empower immigrant communities to advocate for themselves.
- *Build leadership of and protections for young people* and their families, especially Dreamers.
- *Revisit and expand the Foundation's legal services strategy* to reflect a changing political context for immigrant communities.
- *Support community conversations* to build empathy and awareness of “receiving communities.”
- Participate in and shape regional and national conversations about immigration.

## Conversation Summaries

The group discussions identified further pressing needs and opportunities for greater impact in our region. The following section summarizes discussion for each critical question in an overview of the conversation and reflections on the role of SVCF to influence immigration in Silicon Valley.

Please note that the detailed notes for each conversation are available in a separate appendix. They are actual comments and feedback from the participants from this community conversation and may not reflect the opinions or future plans of the community foundation.

## QUESTION ONE

### ***What are the most effective solutions to help support immigrants to fully participate in all aspects of our communities?***

(six breakout circles; total of 63 participants)

#### **Overview of Conversation**

Key themes gathered from scribe summaries

##### Create and Support Safe Spaces

- *Support and create safe places* to be with others and to get emotional support about the election outcome and its implications for immigrant communities. Especially important are places where accurate information can be shared.
- *Strengthen the network of sanctuaries* for refugees and immigrants, long-term, consisting of faith-based institutions, institutions of higher education, and schools that can provide safe havens to immigrants and refugees.

##### Special Role for Local Governments

- *Policy* at the local level has the potential to either buttress or negate anti-immigrant Federal actions. It will be important to anticipate this, to proactively provide a template for immigrant policy, and to guard against/mitigate the adoption/enforcement of anti-immigrant policies.
- *Courageous leadership at the local level* will require public officials to take brave positions, to receive coordinated media attention and to be supported by their communities.
- *Welcome policies.* Some Bay Area cities have adopted an explicit welcome policy for immigrants. Encourage the adoption of welcome policies throughout Bay Area cities and counties.
- *Ensure immigrants play a central role in governing institutions* by making sure immigrants are represented on Boards, commissions and are hired as staff.
- *Active inclusion of immigrants in civic engagement processes,* using both traditional and innovative techniques and technologies to increase language access and outreach, and participation overall. Immigrants should feel connected and entitled to participating in public processes.
- *Training for local government, city and school employees,* to help them understand the current political climate and how it affects immigrant communities, and to help them to be respectful and supportive of immigrant families in their day to day work.
- *Prepare against hate speech/crimes* in all municipal arenas, trainings for city/school/government staff and zero tolerance policies.

##### Changing Hearts and Minds

- *Reframe the narrative in the media* to highlight the contributions of immigrants to our communities in actual and factual terms. Challenge inaccurate and/or disparaging narratives around immigrants and immigration with well-resourced media campaigns.
- *Hold community conversations to build bridges and shift perceptions.* Bring immigrant and non-immigrant members of the same communities together to hear and learn about each other. Increase empathy and connection across boundaries.
- *Use storytelling to enlist allies, dialogue with/persuade opponents.* Support immigrants to share their stories in different forums/formats to help build understanding and empathy in the broader community.
- *Sponsor visible community celebrations of immigrant culture* to highlight the contributions of immigrant communities, the relationships that “receiving communities” have with immigrant food, culture and people; and to support immigrant communities in taking up public space in hostile times.

### Organizing / Advocacy

- *Seize the Time.* Harness the post-election energy to move to action. Build and strengthen existing organizational networks while simultaneously increasing grassroots mobilizing and awareness within immigrant communities.
- *Organize and build leadership within immigrant communities.* Support trusted leaders and institutions, develop leadership of emerging leaders, start with dissemination of accurate information. Weave organizing into direct services and legal services.
- *Support exchange of accurate information in immigrant communities,* to help empower and as a building block in mobilizing. Integrate information dissemination into direct service and legal services, as well as peer-to-peer models within immigrant communities.
- *Organize and build partnerships between immigrant communities, coordinate efforts/messages.* Create bridges/alliances across immigrant communities that don’t currently work together to form a unified voice.
- *Enlist unlikely allies, create strategic partnerships.* Enlist white middle class allies to work within their communities; mobilize partnerships across sectors – e.g. business, health – in support of immigrants.
- *Integrate organizing and advocacy into direct service provision.* Identify service providers where there is an opportunity to integrate/weave organizing and advocacy into the work. Use service provision as opportunity to organize. Strengthen the ability of service providers to advocate based on their work in the field.
- *Build bridges, empathy through community conversations* in neighborhoods and towns. Bring people from immigrant and receiving communities together to share their realities and concerns so they can begin to see each other across the false divide.
- *Build organizational capacity to engage, connect and communicate* using social media and across language barriers with their constituents. Help organizations connect with each other around organizing efforts.

- *Advocacy.* Strengthen the intersection of legal services and organizing/advocacy. Begin to put in place means for local, regional and state advocacy to prevent cooperation with punitive federal efforts. In the short-term, support President Obama’s administration to put in place protections around immigrants in his last 90 days of office.
- *Support the leadership of young people.* Support youth led grassroots groups to develop leadership from within and take the stage.

### Legal Services

- *Revisit and rethink strategy for legal services,* in light of shift in political climate post-election. Consider how to build capacity of organizations providing services, increase the reach of legal services within immigrant communities and resource a broader legal services strategy. More legal services in more of a state of preparedness and readiness.
- *Provide more ‘know your rights’ information* within immigrant communities.
- *Increase deportation defense* legal services.
- *Integrate legal services into existing services.* “Piggy back” or provide legal services in proximity to other services accessed by immigrants such as safety net systems and programs, or other direct services, in order to increase ease of access.
- *Integrate organizing into legal services.* Strengthen the intentional intersection of legal services with organizing/advocacy both at the individual level and at the organizational level.
- *Citizenship campaign.* Resources to undertake a mass citizenship campaign. Consider what pieces of policy need to be moved to support an easier path to citizenship.
- *Eyes on young people.* Resource legal services to protect DACA youth, and other young people mobilizing for political change who have vulnerable legal status.

### Continue to Strengthen and Increase Impact of Direct Service Providers

- *Continue to build capacity and effectiveness of direct service organizations.* Support planning, evaluation, and training. Help organizations to better reflect and integrate what they learn from their practice and their constituents into their work. Help them be responsive, reflective, and sustainable, while they still attend to their immediate operational needs.
- *Centralize services for ease of access and to extend reach.* Make it easier to navigate the service landscape by centralizing services, increasing information and technologies for how to access services, and streamlining access points.
- *Increase coordination and integration among organizations, including legal services.* Support organizations to coordinate with each other around their work.

### Organizational Network Responsiveness in Wake of the Election

- *There is a need for mental health services post-election.* “There is a lot of fear in our communities.” There is a need for mental health support, therapy and other support services.

- *Be proactive in thinking protectively.* There is a lot of apprehension in the community after the election; relationships with existing entities that communities trust are important. Services providers must bring a new level of awareness around safety and security in order to keep clients' information safe.
- *Integrate advocacy and organizing into direct services.* There is an opportunity to blend advocacy and organizing into the work of direct service provision, both at the individual level, one to one, and as organizations bringing to light clients' stories and needs. "Advocacy is more important than ever – how do we build that into everything our agencies do?"
- *Continue to strengthen the fabric of the ecosystem of immigration advocacy, organizing and service provider organizations.* Continue to enrich the community of advocacy, organizing and service providing organizations – the spaces between the organizations, the relationships and information. This helps the network be ready and effective.

#### Ideas about Strategy Going Forward

- *Policy.* Participants are in agreement that it is important to strengthen local and state protections for immigrants, and that the local arena is an important sphere for pro-immigrant policy efforts.
- *Organizing/campaign strategy.* Participants have a range of ideas of how to organize and what to rally around. In general, participants point towards increasing a sense of safety and flow of accurate information for immigrant communities in this particular time.

#### Integration and Participation

- *Getting oriented.* Participants' comments fell into two areas: help immigrants *navigate pathways to participation* and *reduce institutional barriers to participation*. The discussions touched on ways to provide tools and knowledge so that immigrants/refugees are equipped to participate in the community such as how to increase access to driver's licenses, health insurance, and payment options for immigrants and refugees.
- *Networks to Support Immigrants/Refugees to Integrate.* Social networks, largely the mechanics of integration and participation, were discussed in terms of receiving communities, within immigrant /refugee communities, and building networks to bridge the two.
- *Employment.* Employment or participation in the economy was discussed in terms of *reducing institutional barriers to work* – work permits, authorizations – for undocumented workers, *support for entrepreneurs, workforce development, childcare* and ideas for how *employers can play a role* in supporting immigrants/refugees to integrate.
- *Language Access.* Participants highlighted the importance of language access for integration and participation, and the role that ESL can play to launch into other networks.
- *Education.* Participants discussed how critical the full continuum of education is for individuals and families, the importance of removing financial barriers to education.

#### Young people

- Participants call for a *special focus on young people* during this time. Ideas range from legal protections for Dreamers and young activists to creating safe spaces in schools for young people and their families, to fortifying and supporting leadership in this generation that will come to adulthood and political power in the current political environment.

## Reflections on the Role for SVCF

- *Build bridges between donors and grantees*, connecting them in order to enlist allies, increase understanding of the work and its impact, and increase funding.
- *Challenge negative narrative about immigrants* with the truth about how immigrants contribute to our society and economy.
- *Continue to strengthen the fabric of the ecosystem of immigration advocacy, organizing and service provider organizations*. Continue to enrich the community of advocacy, organizing and service providing organizations – the spaces between the organizations, the relationships and information, trainings, and sharing of best practices, innovations, and challenge in the field.
- *Work with local governments*. Survey existing welcoming communities and leverage these to increase the number of cities who have made a commitment to be welcoming communities to immigrants.
- *Support safe spaces* - existing ones and help create new ones – for immigrants to express themselves, to be together and to exchange accurate information.
- *Expand funding for immigration*.
- *Fund advocacy and base-building*. Work with immigrant communities to build change agents in their own communities.
- *Incubate and support organizing, advocacy and policy strategy* to support safety, protection and health for immigrants. Support leadership and strategy grounded in immigrant communities.
- *Integrate organizing and advocacy into direct and legal service organizations* at the individual and organizational level. Support grassroots and direct service organizations to conduct screenings for legal status and eligibility. Connect legal services to these efforts.
- *Continue to build capacity and effectiveness of direct service organizations*. Support planning, evaluation and training. Help organizations to better reflect and integrate what they learn from their practice and their constituents into their work. Help them be responsive, reflective and sustainable, while they still attend to their immediate operational needs. Help the sector maintain a healthy, strong, sustainable core in the face of a changing political environment.

## QUESTION TWO

***How can we more effectively remove structural barriers to allow immigrants to engage and thrive in our communities?***

(Six breakout circles; total of 59 participants)

## Overview of Conversation

## Key themes gathered from scribe summaries

### Naming Structural Barriers

- Participants named numerous barriers with frequent emphasis on limited English language proficiency and lack of access or awareness of resource availability impeding access to affordable housing, asset-building employment, citizenship and full integration. Embedded poverty, fear, and racism hinder immigrant communities and broader receiving communities. With regard to institutions including schools, service-providing organizations and cross-sector agencies, “structural barriers are often caused by and because of the mindset of those who impact or continue those barriers.” It will be as important to influence mindsets, as it is to influence policy to reduce and remove the structural barriers that keep immigrant communities from thriving.

### Educate, Build Awareness, Train and Empower

- Three categories emerged in assessing how to target different groups for education, building awareness, training and empowerment. Participants outlined immigrant communities, broader receiving communities (communities adapting to newcomers), and institutions including service providers, schools, organizations and government (local, state, and federal).
- Educating immigrants about their rights that apply to all people, including non-citizens. Empowering immigrants through local community organizing, programs, classes and information sessions were solutions participants emphasized. Leadership development should be extended to parents, through meaningful parent involvement in schools. Cultural stigmas within immigrant communities, which keep individuals from seeking assistance, need to be addressed.
- Participants discussed a need to educate and build awareness among communities receiving newcomers who are immigrants. Public education, workshops, sharing immigrant stories, as well as national conversations on race and xenophobia were suggested as tools to reduce fear, debunk myths and stereotypes, and promote cultural acceptance.

### Civic Engagement for Immigrant Communities

- Increased representation and participation of immigrants in policy, decision-making and advocacy discussions are needed. Participants want to see immigrants elected into office, placed on commissions, in more public sector jobs and passing local policies for sanctuary. Community members should be incentivized, coached and empowered in advocacy to fight for themselves.

### Opportunities for Institutions (service providers, schools, organizations and government)

- Institutions are in a position to create “safe zones” and safe places where families and diverse groups can meet and feel supported. Participants highlighted ways in which schools, organizations, and government can be responsive to the needs of immigrants. Fostering visibility of immigrant communities, “taking a stand and speaking out,” and providing multi-sector dialogue about racism



were just a few. Public school curriculum can help teachers and students learn about diverse communities. Schools can be venues for bridge-building and school-based mediations. Service providers can be trained on diverse communities and in turn offer community trainings in leadership and grassroots organizing. Local, municipal, and county government can advocate for immigrants through funding for capacity-building, being intentional about supporting immigrant integration and creating a welcoming environment.

### Build Bridges

- *Cooperation and collaboration.* Participants would like to see more structured collaboration among stakeholders (i.e. ESL providers, service providers). Noted paths for accomplishing this include focusing on “what unites us,” investing in innovation and partnerships to incentivize citizenship pathways and reduce costs, Lending circles and credit building programs. In addition, pairing legal services with organizing, working together for referrals, cross-county service coordination, warm hand-offs of those seeking assistance and adopting “no wrong door” policies are practices institutions should adopt so that people are not going from one place to another in need of assistance. Bridge building between different communities experiencing oppression (i.e. immigrants, women, people of color, Muslims, etc.) can help strengthen resistance and solidarity to promote policy change.

### Service Coordination

- Participants identified the following as areas for opportunity in service coordination: establishing a database of services, referral organizations, “Know Your Rights” resources, leadership development and peer to peer training in organizing.

### Integration Services

- Assistance with naturalization and pathways to citizenship can help reduce and remove structural barriers to integration. Access to high quality legal assistance and representation, coaching sessions on integration, increased federal & state funding for immigrant integration services, and deportation defense were named as additional remedies. Participants would like to see successful policies such as dreamer scholarships and colleges and drivers’ licenses for undocumented immigrants replicated in other parts of the country.

### Language Access

- Language access was emphasized as key for work and economic integration, access to education, awareness of options (resources) and services for the undocumented, childcare, healthcare and other support. Establishing language access policies such as making ESL and adult schools free; producing more literature and advertisements that span multiple languages; addressing (bilingual)

teacher shortage; and promoting digital literacy through universal internet access are potential solutions to eliminate structural barriers facing immigrant communities.

#### Work / Employment / Economic Integration

- Not only is it critical to increase economic opportunities, it is important to support asset-building work to give immigrants tools for long-term financial security. Making college free, offering financial support and childcare can enable people to gain the skills they need to obtain reliable income. Assistance with job placement and step-by-step assistance through the job-seeking process are critical. Restructuring the professional recertification system to recognize qualifications of immigrants entering the country with higher degrees, promoting cooperatives to remove the I-9 problem, creating possibilities to generate income without work authorization through business ownership, and ensuring city processes that facilitate access to small business licenses.

#### Healthcare

- Free and universal health care addressing mental health and systemic sources of intergenerational trauma were noted, as well as making living standards of pay and health for undocumented workers a requirement.

#### Housing

- Participants would like to see housing assistance, policies to protect renters' rights, universal housing and campaigns informing immigrant communities on housing options via ethnic media.

#### Government protections & allies

- Common themes of progressive policy changes and strengthening commitments at local and state levels were discussed. Ideas and implications include engaging closely with state offices to learn their position and how they are willing to support counties and regions in addition to preparing California to provide more legislative constitutional protections than the federal government. Protection efforts include local government declarations of sanctuary cities; promoting pro-immigrant state and local policies; and reflecting a banner of trust and safety to address structural barriers, further strengthening local policies that create a firewall between law enforcement and immigration. At the federal level, participants recommended fiscal analysis of federal funding to identify potential short or long term spending cuts within immigrant rights protections.

#### Law Enforcement / Criminal Justice Reform

- Reform within law enforcement and criminal justice pertaining to immigrants was another resounding theme in participants' conversation. Ensuring public defenders and criminal defense attorneys understand the immigration consequences of criminal convictions; engaging in law

enforcement related dialogue with regional city managers, police or others; and getting police departments to make statements that they do not plan immigration sweeps for individuals are a few key ways suggested to remove structural barriers impeding integration and progress within immigrant communities. The prison system criminalizes and kills voting rights, breaks up communities and perpetuates violence. Ideas for solutions involve modeling local policies to push back on harmful federal enforcement; providing funding for removal defense, legal reform for frequent minor convictions that stand in the way or threaten the ability to thrive; and dismantling anti-immigrant criminal justice laws at local, state and federal levels.

### Messaging

- The importance of messaging was highlighted for communicating and informing immigrant communities, educating receiving communities, and reaching out to nonprofit and multi-sector stakeholder institutions. Participants suggested asking ‘what voice SVCF could have in promoting immigrants?’ The language used in messaging is key as well as addressing misinformation/myths in the immigrant community that prevent immigrants from accessing opportunities, debunking a false dictionary (i.e. “brown criminal”, “traffic” immigrants) and removing distinctions that are often racially biased like temporary visas versus H1B’s versus green cards.

### Reflections on the Role for SVCF

- *Act as a platform for accurate information.* Interrupt negative narratives of immigrant communities and immigration with facts about the contributions of immigrants to our communities and the ways in which our communities are built on immigration.
- *Policy, liaison and advocate between state and local governments* to understand the policy environment, to share this understanding, and to help local governments create a welcoming policy environment by proposing a template for policy action in order to mitigate federal policy.
- *Continue to build power and support leadership in immigrant communities.* Build the leadership of young people especially.
- *Work to lower barriers to civic engagement for immigrant communities,* increasing a sense of ownership or stakeholdership in public processes; cultivate structures that increase immigrant leadership in public office and in government bodies.
- *Continue funding for basic services to support integration while implementing a strategy to fight for immigrant communities in our new political context.*

### QUESTION THREE

**What creative, innovative or non-traditional approaches might we consider to support immigrants’ upward economic mobility and advance progress on pressing immigrant issues?**

(six breakout circles; total of 55 participants)

## Overview of Conversation

Key themes gathered from scribe summaries

- *Economic Security for Immigrant Communities.* Participants underscore the importance of economic security for immigrant communities, spurred by the instability of our changing political environment. Participants' comments cluster around support for entrepreneurs; facilitated work access for undocumented workers; support and training for cooperative models of living and working; creative approaches to a safety net for those who are suddenly on the outside of earning and services due to their immigration status; cultivating alternative economies; and affordable housing for immigrant communities.
- *Legal Defense Services.* Participants see legal defense strategy and funding for legal defense services, especially around deportations, as critical at this time. They suggest that legal defense services become more accessible, through education and training and the use of technology. A community led deportation defense model could help to educate, organize and empower immigrant communities.
- *Advocacy.* Advocate for policy and resource allocation at the federal, state and local levels in that is supportive of immigrant communities. At the local level, advocate with tech corporations to take a strong stand in support of both their immigrant workers and the regional economy, helping them to connect with the tools they need to make their voices heard at different levels of legislature.
- *Change Hearts and Minds.* Reframe narrative using media campaigns to highlight the contributions of immigrant communities to our communities in actual factual terms. Challenge inaccurate disparaging narratives around immigrants and immigration with well-resourced media campaigns. Promote historical accuracy. Hold community conversations to build bridges, surface concerns and shift perceptions. Increase empathy and connection across boundaries. Use storytelling to build bridges, in particular, empower immigrant communities to tell their own stories. Support immigrants to share their stories in different forums and formats to help build understanding and empathy in the broader community.
- *Organizing.* Participants call for organizing at all levels to support immigrant communities at this critical time. Mobilize within immigrant communities, especially support community led institutions and leadership, including peer to peer models; mobilize across immigrant communities, including across generational divides and ethnic divides, different countries of origin; activate mass networks across sectors; engage allies, including unlikely ones, and support them in taking their stand for immigrant communities; use legal services as a way to organize in immigrant communities, especially "Know Your Rights" communications; hold community trainings to familiarize civic leaders with how to engage and support their immigrant constituents and to prepare communities to take peace actions; help to hold a space for civil disobedience in our communities; hold safe spaces for immigrant communities, to keep heart, take sanctuary and share accurate information.

- *Research and Policy.* Conduct or disseminate research to increase understanding of the impact of changes in federal policy at the local level, and advance policy and research that mitigates enforcement or is protective of immigrant communities. Additionally, participants see the importance of moving policy and research for economic security and workforce development for immigrant communities.
- *Integration.* Help the “receiving community,” especially employers differentiate between immigrants from different places of origin, with different levels of educations and skill/expertise areas. Help to reduce institutional barriers and increase access to services and education for economic stability and mobility.
- *Technology.* Use technology to have a broader impact on services, communities and advocacy for immigrants. Leverage resources, ideas and models from the tech industry to support immigrant communities.
- *Young people at the center.* DACA is legislation that was central to immigration reform and is now facing the likelihood of being dismantled. Young people coming to maturity will face a dramatically different political climate than we have faced in recent times. They will need protection and support as they come of age, and into their own political power and voice.

## **Reflections on the Role for SVCF**

- *Advocate within philanthropy.* Expand funding for the immigration program area to support immigrant communities. Build bridges between donors and grantees, connecting them in order to enlist allies; increase understanding of the work and its impact; and increase funding. Develop/strengthen partnerships with other foundations to move a shared agenda.
- *Act as a research and information hub.* Conduct and/or circulate research that contributes to an accurate understanding of the issues around the important contribution of immigrant communities to our society, the challenges they face, and the impacts of policy on immigrant communities and our society as a whole.
- *Take a stand.* Publicly stand in solidarity with immigrant communities. Encourage and support others to do this too.
- *Empower grantees, especially young people.* Champion youth leadership in all aspects of the immigration program area. Be advised by grantees in how to best support them. Lift up the voices of grantees, especially young people.
- *Mobilize allies to immigrant community.* Cultivate the work of those with privilege doing work in their own communities in support of immigrant communities.
- *Come with Strategy.* Take a long-term and short-term perspective on how to impact the terrain facing immigrant communities. Incubate and support organizing, advocacy and policy strategy grounded in immigrant communities.
- *Focus on DACA/Dreamers.* The community foundation should focus on advocacy and organizing to secure the status of Dreamers. Be a staunch ally.

- *Participate in and shape regional, national conversations about immigration.* Strengthen its tools for engaging and influencing policy around immigration.
- *Re-evaluate Strategy around Legal Services.* The Foundation should reconsider its legal strategy to correspond with this political climate and the implications for immigrant communities.
- *Integrate organizing and advocacy into direct and legal service organizations* at the individual and organizational level. Support grassroots and direct service organizations to conduct screenings for legal status and eligibility. Connect legal services to these efforts.
- *Continue to build capacity and effectiveness of direct service organizations.* Support planning, evaluation and training. Help organizations to better reflect and integrate what they learn from their practice and their constituents into their work. Help them be responsive, reflective and sustainable while they still attend to their immediate operational needs. Help the sector maintain a healthy, strong, sustainable core in the face of a changing political environment.