



**I. GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET**

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This page will be shared electronically with Grant Panel Members & Fund Advisors + posted online.

Date

**Contact Information**

Organization Name: Pennsylvania Fund for Immigrant Rights and Equity

Address of Fiscal Sponsor: 200 E State St Suite 304, Media, PA 19063	ED/CEO Name: Jasmine Rivera
Phone: (610) 744-1010	ED/CEO E-mail: <a href="mailto:jasminerivera@paimmigrant.org">jasminerivera@paimmigrant.org</a>
Website: <a href="https://pennsylvaniafire.org/">https://pennsylvaniafire.org/</a>	Fiscal Sponsor Contact Name: Mischico Warren
Year Incorporated: 2025	Fiscal Sponsor Approval (check here): <input type="checkbox"/>
FEIN of Fiscal Sponsor: 22-2540853	Primary Contact Name: Leah Reisman
	Primary Contact E-mail <a href="mailto:lrreisman@barrafoundation.org">lrreisman@barrafoundation.org</a>

**Organization Information:**

**Field/s of Interest:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Arts, Culture, Heritage	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Library	<input type="checkbox"/>	Environment, Animals
<input type="checkbox"/>	Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Human Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Social Justice, Civic Engagement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion	<input type="checkbox"/> If other, please describe:			

**Mission:**

The **Pennsylvania Fund for Immigrant Rights and Equity (PA FIRE)** is a pooled fund launched by a cohort of funders and community advocates in partnership with the **Pennsylvania Immigration Coalition (PIC)** to advance a coordinated statewide plan to protect and advance immigrant rights. Powered by 38 PIC member organizations, PA FIRE provides grants to expand vital services, strengthen advocacy, and respond to federal threats, with the goal of achieving long-term systems change across Pennsylvania. Building on an emergency fund initiated by the William Penn Foundation, PA FIRE broadens support from the Philadelphia region to the entire state, aiming to raise and distribute a minimum of **\$6 million in its first year**, to sustain coordinated efforts through at least the end of the current administration.

**Geographic Area Served** (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served):

Statewide – all of Pennsylvania

**Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served.** (Include Chester County # &/or % served.)

The following organizations are participating in the coordinated statewide plan that PA FIRE supports:

- ACLU PA
- African Communities Together
- AFRICOM
- Alianzas de Phoenixville
- Asian Americans United
- Bhutanese Community Association of Pittsburgh
- CAIR PA
- Casa de la Cultura
- Catholic Social Services of Philadelphia
- Center for Integration and Migrant Support
- Centro de Apoyo Comunitario
- Church World Services of Lancaster
- Community Justice Project\*

- Compass Immigration Legal Services
- Education Law Project of PA
- El Comite de Trabajadorxs
- Engage
- Esperanza Immigration Legal Services
- Free Migration Project
- Global Switchboard
- Haitian Americans United for Change
- HCAN\*
- HIAS PA
- International Service Center
- JUNTOS
- Justice at Work
- Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in PA\*
- M.I.R.A. Resources
- Make the Road PA
- MILPA
- National Domestic Workers Alliance-PA
- Nationalities Service Center
- New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia
- Pennsylvania Immigration Coalition
- Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center
- The Welcome Project PA
- Unides Para Servir Norristown
- VietLead
- Woori Center

**Fundraising Goal** \$6,000,000

100% of budget for program expenses

0 % of budget for administrative expenses

0 % of budget for fundraising expenses

*100% = total*

0 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff

8 # of Board Volunteers

0 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers

100 # of Volunteer Hours

**Top 3-5 funding sources:**

As of 11/21/25, PA FIRE has received funding commitments from 11 philanthropic foundations, totaling \$512,000.

**This grant proposal is for:**  Direct Service Programs & General Operating &/or  Capacity Building

**If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Contingency Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	Partnerships, Collaborations	<input type="checkbox"/>	Merger, Closure
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mission, Vision, Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Board Engagement & Leadership	<input type="checkbox"/>	Marketing, Communication
<input type="checkbox"/>	Resource Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	Operations	<input type="checkbox"/>	Technology
<input type="checkbox"/>	If other, please describe:				

**Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation:** We would like PA FIRE to be made available to donors who are part of the Community Foundation’s network.

**Proposal Summary:** *(a few sentences, please)*

In light of unprecedented attacks on immigrants nationwide, a cohort of local and national funders in partnership with the Pennsylvania Immigration Coalition (PIC) launched the “Pennsylvania Fund for Immigrant Rights and Equity.” Via this

fund, grants from philanthropic foundations and contributions from the general public will be disbursed to advance a coordinated state plan to support, protect, and strengthen immigrant communities across the state. The plan will be carried out by 38 PIC member organizations across 26 Pennsylvania counties who serve, organize, and advocate for immigrant communities across Pennsylvania. Via concerted effort until at least the end of the current administration, the plan will advance long-term systems change that will strengthen our commonwealth and its communities. The fund aims to raise and distribute a minimum of \$6MM in its first year. Learn more at [pennsylvaniaFIRE.org](https://pennsylvaniaFIRE.org).



## II. GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

*Provide clear, concise information in 1-3 pages. Please be brief.*

Why is PA FIRE needed?

Pennsylvania has the 6th largest population of naturalized citizens among US States. More than one million Pennsylvania residents—8% of the state’s population—are immigrants, including 16% of Philadelphia’s residents (Census 2023 ACS). Immigrants fuel Pennsylvania’s economy, drive entrepreneurship, and sustain workforce growth at a time when the state faces labor shortages and population decline. With Pennsylvania’s median age now exceeding the national average, population decline has serious fiscal consequences—fewer residents mean less federal funding for education, infrastructure, and public services. Welcoming and retaining immigrants is essential to reversing this trend and ensuring long-term prosperity for all Pennsylvanians.

Meanwhile, the Trump administration has launched unprecedented attacks on immigrant communities—aimed at detaining and deporting millions while undermining core democratic principles such as freedom of speech, due process, and the right to assembly. Philadelphia—the largest city in a key battleground state—has been explicitly targeted by the administration, and the largest immigrant detention center in the Northeast is located in central Pennsylvania. These realities position the state as both a flashpoint and an opportunity for resistance, solidarity, and systemic change.

Local and national funders must act collectively to protect these foundational rights and the communities under assault. Immigration enforcement reverberates far beyond those directly targeted. Raids, detentions, and deportations strain schools, health systems, legal aid providers, human services, small businesses, and families across the Commonwealth. These downstream impacts demand a coordinated, well-resourced response.

What is the statewide coordinated plan?

More than a defensive response, PA FIRE represents a strategic investment in rapid response, community-led organizing, and long-term transformation. The statewide coordinated plan includes key tactics across four pillars of impact. PIC member organizations have signed on to carry out activities based on their communities’ needs and organizational strengths, thereby maximizing impact and fostering greater power building and systemic change than any single group could achieve alone.

Pillar 1: Rapid Response and Service Expansion

In the plan’s first pillar of impact, involved organizations are focused on increasing awareness of constitutional rights, expanding access to legal and community resources, strengthening organizational preparedness, and ultimately reducing detention and deportations. As a part of this pillar, participating organizations will:

- **Deliver Know Your Rights Workshops** – Equip immigrant communities and allies with essential legal knowledge through in-person and virtual sessions, increasing awareness of constitutional rights and reducing vulnerability to detention and deportation
- **Deliver Community Safety Planning Workshops** – Strengthen workplace and neighborhood preparedness through in-person and virtual sessions, resulting in more organizations with proactive community safety plans in place
- **Expand and sustain community/bail funds statewide** – Increase the reach and resources of immigrant-led financial support networks, expanding access to emergency funds and reducing detention rates
- **Grow the PA Immigrant Family Unity Project (PAIFUP)** – Strengthen capacity to provide free legal representation for individuals in deportation proceedings, ensuring equitable access to counsel and contributing to fewer deportations
- **Conduct targeted research and policy analysis** – Provide timely insights and updates on policy and systems changes, increasing organizations’ knowledge and ability to respond to emerging challenges

## Pillar 2: Building Advocacy Infrastructure and Capacity

In the plan’s second pillar of impact, involved organizations aim to strengthen their ability to organize communities, deliver strong, pro-immigrant messaging strategies, and generate public engagement in the immigrant rights movement in order to put pressure on elected officials. As a part of this pillar, participating organizations will:

- **Train new organizers across PIC member organizations** – Build staff skills in organizing, increasing organizational capacity to actively participate in immigrant rights and justice efforts statewide.
- **Develop a pro-immigrant narrative and messaging strategy** – Craft compelling, values-based communications, increasing public awareness of immigrant contributions and fostering empathy among native-born residents
- **Expand capacity of PIC and member organizations to share pro-immigrant messages** – Strengthen communication channels and outreach, amplifying pro-immigrant messaging and increasing participation in the immigrant rights and justice movement
- **Advance community organizing focused on leadership, civic engagement, and advocacy** – Mobilize communities through leadership development, democratic participation, and demonstrations, increasing awareness of immigrant rights and building collective power to influence policy.
- **Lead deportation defense campaigns** – Advocacy campaigns are either focused on individuals facing detention and/or deportation or closing immigration detention centers in the state, to keep Pennsylvania families united and safe from abuse in detention.
- **Expand community organizing and advocacy to new regions of the state** – Extend grassroots capacity and coordination, broadening the reach of the statewide immigrant rights movement and engaging more organizations in coordinated action.

## Pillar 3: Engaging Community and Enhancing Collaboration

In the plan’s third pillar of impact, involved organizations strengthen their connections to one another and with organizations beyond the immigrant-serving nonprofit ecosystem. Organizations aim to deepen collaboration in order to grow the immigrant rights movement throughout the Commonwealth. As a part of this pillar, participating organizations will:

- **Coordinate PIC member organizations involved in PA FIRE to conduct activities and share outcomes** – Strengthen alignment and collaboration across member organizations, increasing coordination and impact of immigrant rights and justice efforts statewide.
- **Connect with organizations that are not primarily focused on immigrant rights** – Build cross-sector partnerships that expand the movement’s reach, fostering broader public support and engagement in immigrant justice.
- **Conduct planning retreats for PIC members** – Create dedicated space for shared learning, reflection, and strategic alignment, increasing cohesion and collective capacity for movement building.

- **Provide updates for funders on the realities immigrant communities are facing** – Deepen philanthropy’s understanding of immigrant experiences, increasing informed investment and engagement in immigrant rights and justice work across Pennsylvania.

#### Pillar 4: Transforming Systems

In the plan’s fourth pillar of impact, involved organizations work toward transformational systems change to ensure that immigrants are welcome in Pennsylvania. Organizations will build upon the work done across other pillars of impact to strengthen support for immigrants rights among elected officials. As a part of this pillar, participating organizations will:

- **Advance statewide legislative advocacy** – Engage elected officials and policymakers across Pennsylvania through meetings, education, and advocacy campaigns, increasing knowledge about the positive impact of immigrants and building support for pro-immigrant legislation and welcoming policies.
- **End local collaboration with ICE** – Organize and advocate to reduce and ultimately eliminate partnerships between local government, including law enforcement, and ICE, keeping Pennsylvania families united and safe while deepening trust between immigrant communities and local governments.
- **Hold federal elected officials accountable to immigrant rights** – Mobilize community members and partners to push for local, state, and federal policy changes, increasing advocacy for immigrant rights and building the foundation for pathways to citizenship and a fairer immigration system.
- **Launch coordinated advocacy campaigns** – Promote local, state, and federal policy improvements through public campaigns that engage diverse Pennsylvania residents, expanding access to opportunities for immigrant communities, strengthening welcoming practices, and attracting new residents to the Commonwealth.

Each category is interconnected, as each one is necessary in balancing the short-term needs of community members with the long-term transformative work of addressing our broken immigration system and rise in xenophobia.

#### Fund Administration

The fund will be hosted and administered by the **Foundation for Delaware County**. Checks should be made payable to: The Foundation for Delaware County, 200 East State Street Suite 304 Media, PA 19063 Re: PA-FIRE. For ACH, please contact Laura DeFlavia at [ldeflavia@delcofoundation.org](mailto:ldeflavia@delcofoundation.org). If you would like to discuss the pooled fund further, contact fund ambassadors

- Leah Reisman ([lreisman@barrafoundation.org](mailto:lreisman@barrafoundation.org))
- Farrah Parkes ([fparkes@genderjusticephilly.org](mailto:fparkes@genderjusticephilly.org))
- Caitlin O’Brien ([cobrien@scattergoodfoundation.org](mailto:cobrien@scattergoodfoundation.org))

#### Fundraising Targets and Distribution

The fund has a goal of raising \$6MM in its first year, which will fund near-term elements of the coordinated plan. The fund will remain open at least until the end of the current administration; multiyear commitments to support longer-term systems change work would be particularly impactful.

Funds will be provided to grantee organizations as unrestricted grants, with the understanding that they will be used to carry out tactics or programs of the coordinated plan. The grant cycle will be a year long with up to three disbursements throughout the grant cycle, dependent on fundraising success.

To ensure transparency and accountability of pooled fund management, members who are part of the coordinated plan have voted on their two preferred methods of distribution of grant funds dependent on fundraising outcomes;

- In the event that the fundraising goal is met, members will receive equal grant amounts, or, up to the budget they requested in the plan, until all budget requests have been met after the three disbursements.
- In the event that the goal is not met, allocation decisions will be made with attention to equity. Members have named the following metrics be used in order to prioritize organizations for grant disbursement:
  - *Annual operating size of the organization*

- *Organizations serving underrepresented immigrant communities*
- *Funding amount requested in the plan*
- *Level of need in the community the organization serves (with priority for organizations in rural counties)*
- *Immigrant-led organizations*
- *Newly established organizations*
- *Severity of funding gaps*

In both distribution plans, members have requested the option to opt-out of an upcoming grant disbursement, to ensure funds can be distributed to colleagues most in need. In the month preceding the upcoming grant disbursement, members will be given fundraising status updates in order to confirm with PIC both the distribution method and if they choose to opt-in for that disbursement.

Why should you consider contributing?

Funders are encouraged to support **PA FIRE’s coordinated plan**, which ensures equitable resource allocation across 38 immigrant-serving organizations statewide. By investing in a unified approach, funders maximize impact—leveraging the unique strengths of each organization, fostering collective power, and driving systemic change that no single group could achieve alone.

This innovative, democratic pooled fund goes beyond rapid-response funding. It addresses historic underinvestment in immigrant-led organizations while meeting the urgent needs created by ongoing crises, including gaps left by federal funding cuts to refugee resettlement agencies. PA FIRE is not just a defensive strategy; it is a forward-looking investment in **community-led organizing, rapid response, and long-term transformation**. With your support, PA FIRE can strengthen Pennsylvania’s immigrant-led ecosystem, positioning it as a national model for justice, equity, and sustainable change.

What if my foundation or donor advised fund doesn’t focus on immigrant communities/rights?

Even if your foundation doesn’t explicitly fund immigrant rights, supporting immigrant communities likely aligns closely with your mission. **Immigrants are whole people whose lives and contributions intersect with nearly every major philanthropic priority**—from education and health to economic growth and civic engagement. Supporting immigrants isn’t a niche issue; it’s fundamental to advancing equity, opportunity, and well-being for all Pennsylvanians.

Connections across key issue areas:

- **Agriculture & Food Justice:** Immigrants are essential to Pennsylvania’s food system, with nearly 75% of the state’s farmworkers being foreign-born. Their labor sustains a \$132.5 billion agricultural industry and ensures that communities across the Commonwealth have access to fresh, affordable, and culturally relevant food. The state’s own Department of Agriculture recognizes that addressing anti-immigrant sentiment is critical to maintaining a stable, skilled workforce and a just, resilient food system.
- **Democracy & Civic Engagement:** Pennsylvania’s immigrant population plays a crucial role in sustaining the state’s national representation. Immigrants have reversed statewide population decline, helping to preserve federal representation and access to resources. With over 540,000 naturalized citizens now eligible to vote, there is a significant opportunity to strengthen civic engagement and participation across the Commonwealth. Recent challenges to the constitutional rights of immigrants highlight both a moral and systemic imperative: protecting the rights and dignity of all communities is essential to the health of our democracy. When fundamental rights—such as free speech, due process, and habeas corpus—are weakened, the effects ripple across society, threatening democratic norms more broadly. Supporting immigrant communities not only upholds principles of justice and equity but also strengthens the integrity, resilience, and accountability of our democratic institutions.

- **Education & Families:** Immigrants and their families are integral to Pennsylvania’s communities. About 1 in 6 children in the state live in immigrant households, and there are 411,000 children with at least one immigrant parent. Threats of family separation create toxic stress that undermines children’s educational success, affecting attendance, test scores, and graduation rates, and increasing demand for mental health support. Fear of enforcement also discourages school attendance and strains the child welfare and truancy systems. By supporting immigrant families, we help stabilize communities, sustain the population, and maintain the tax base that funds public education for all children.
- **Women & Girls:** Immigrant women face disproportionate risks—from detention-related trauma to family separation and gender-based violence. Pregnant and parenting women—especially those who are postpartum or lactating—are among the most vulnerable in detention, where reports of medical neglect and poor conditions can lead to serious health consequences. The return of family detention and separation policies has further traumatized mothers and children, causing profound psychological harm and destabilizing families. Further, when primary breadwinners are detained or deported, entire households face housing and food insecurity, putting both adults and children at risk. Protecting immigrant women and families is essential to ensuring safety, stability, and opportunity for all families in Pennsylvania.
- **Workforce & Economic Mobility:** Immigrants are essential to Pennsylvania’s economic strength and upward mobility. Nearly 78% of the state’s foreign-born residents participate in the workforce—far higher than the native-born rate of 59%—and their labor, entrepreneurship, and innovation fuel growth across industries. In 2021, immigrants in Pennsylvania generated \$30.1 billion in spending power, paid \$11.5 billion in taxes, and created \$1.9 billion in business income. By revitalizing main streets, sustaining local businesses, and contributing to the tax base, immigrants expand opportunity and economic vitality for communities statewide.
- **Health and Healthcare:** Immigrants are critical to Pennsylvania’s healthcare workforce, filling roles from nurses and doctors to home health aides and nursing home staff—positions that are often difficult to fill locally. At the same time, many immigrants face barriers to accessing care due to fear of deportation, which can lead to unmanaged chronic conditions such as diabetes and hypertension. These health challenges not only put immigrant families at risk but also place additional strain on emergency departments and public health systems, particularly in smaller and rural communities. Ensuring that immigrants can both contribute to and access healthcare is essential to safeguarding the health of all Pennsylvanians.
- **Human Services & Public Safety:** Immigrants often face heightened vulnerability to crime, as perpetrators may target those perceived as less likely to seek help. Fear of enforcement—particularly links between police and immigration authorities—can prevent reporting, ultimately undermining community safety. Ensuring that immigrants can safely engage with the justice system strengthens protections for everyone.

Additionally, detaining or deporting primary breadwinners creates housing and food insecurity, placing entire families at risk of eviction and other negative outcomes. Supporting immigrant families helps stabilize households and communities, promoting both public safety and well-being across Pennsylvania.

### III. ATTACHMENTS

*Email this support information. If it is on your website, please provide the URL.*

1. Copy of **501 (c) (3)** federal tax-exempt letter/Link to fiscal sponsor website: <https://delcofoundation.org/>
2. List of **Advisory Committee**, with their affiliations **URL:** <https://pennsylvaniafire.org/advisory-committee>
3. Most recent **annual report URL:** NA
4. Audited or reviewed recent **financial statement URL:** NA
5. Itemized **organizational operating budget** with actual results for prior fiscal year & current fiscal year to date : NA
6. If capacity building initiative, **itemized budget** (including external consultant’s proposal, if applicable)
7. Current **strategic plan**. If your nonprofit does **not** have a current strategic plan, **explain why**. NA – we are a nascent pooled fund, not an organization