

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



PENNSYLVANIA
IMMIGRATION AND
CITIZENSHIP COALITION



YEAR IN REVIEW

Dear friends,

To say 2020 has been a challenging year is an understatement. The COVID-19 pandemic profoundly changed the ways that we understand public health, allocation of resources, individual and communal care, and our state of mind. We also saw the ways that the pandemic exacerbated racial, economic, and societal inequities that many immigrant and refugee communities, particularly those who are most marginalized, continue to experience throughout the country.

At Pennsylvania Immigration & Citizenship Coalition (PICC), we are honored to be a part of the movement for immigrant and refugee justice. As the only statewide organization in Pennsylvania that brings together community-based organizations, service providers, faith communities, and labor organizations representing different races, ethnicities, immigration status, faiths, and class, to work collectively on immigrant rights, we understand that collective work is needed to support and uplift our communities in today's rapidly changing political climate.

During the pandemic, we expanded our work to provide immediate support to our staff, coalition members, and community leaders while continuing the work of systems change. As we reflect on the past year, we would like to share with you some of our accomplishments.

- Through the PA Immigrant Relief Fund, we collectively raised and distributed \$686,700, providing direct emergency assistance to many individuals and families excluded from federal COVID-19 assistance programs due to the immigration status of themselves or a family member.
- We led a comprehensive and rigorous voter registration and education program leading up to the 2020 presidential election. We successfully registered 1675 new citizen voters, recruited and trained over 50 volunteers, and led a series of phone banking sessions, reaching over 50,000 Pennsylvanians through calls and texts.
- We hosted a 3-day virtual Youth Leadership Conference that brought together youths of all ages and across the state to share stories, lead conversation on important issues affecting them, and develop a community of young leaders.
- We led a series of workshops with PICC member organizations, after school programs, and youth groups across the state on tools and policies to create a welcoming school environment for immigrant and refugee youths.
- We supported the Shut Down Berks Campaign, working with partners across the state to pressure Governor Wolf to close this family detention center and ensure the release of immigrant families.

This strength, resilience, and growth would not be possible without our staff, interns, and volunteers who show up with unwavering dedication and compassion to build a statewide immigrant rights movement. We thank our coalition members and leaders who show up in collective spaces, and build vibrant communities for all. We are also deeply grateful to our generous and loyal supporters as well as the Board of Directors for believing in this critical work.

As we welcome 2021, we continue to hold hope because we know and have witnessed the strength, power, and resilience of our communities. Together, we will continue to build safe and welcoming communities in Pennsylvania that promote all resident's well-being.

In love and struggle,



Sundrop Carter
Executive Director

OUR MISSION & OUR VALUES

The Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition (PICC) is a statewide coalition of over 60 member organizations, including community groups, service providers, advocacy organizations, labor unions, and faith communities.

MISSION

Our mission is to advance immigrants' rights and promote immigrants' full integration into society by advocating with a unified voice for greater public understanding and welcoming public policies throughout Pennsylvania.

To further these goals, PICC leads and supports campaigns to advance immigrant rights at the local, state, and federal levels; builds immigrant electoral power through voter registration and education; provides training and capacity building support to grassroots community-led organizations; and coordinates *PA is Ready!* – a participatory grantmaking fund.

VALUES

We pride ourselves on the following values:

COLLABORATION

We are committed to broad-based coalition work and embrace the challenge of finding common ground and building positive working relationships between diverse groups and individuals.

ENGAGING DIVERSITY

We believe that by working together as diverse immigrant groups we increase our collective power and impact. We are committed to addressing diverse communities' identified needs, reflected within our advocacy, organizing and program work, as well as within PICC's leadership.

IMMIGRANT LEADERSHIP

We support and facilitate the development of leadership within immigrant communities to ensure that immigrant communities are at the fore in defining and leading our work.

COLLECTIVE OWNERSHIP

Our work moves forward through the time, energy and commitment of our member organizations, community leaders, staff and Board.



PA IMMIGRANT RELIEF FUND

CASH ASSISTANCE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

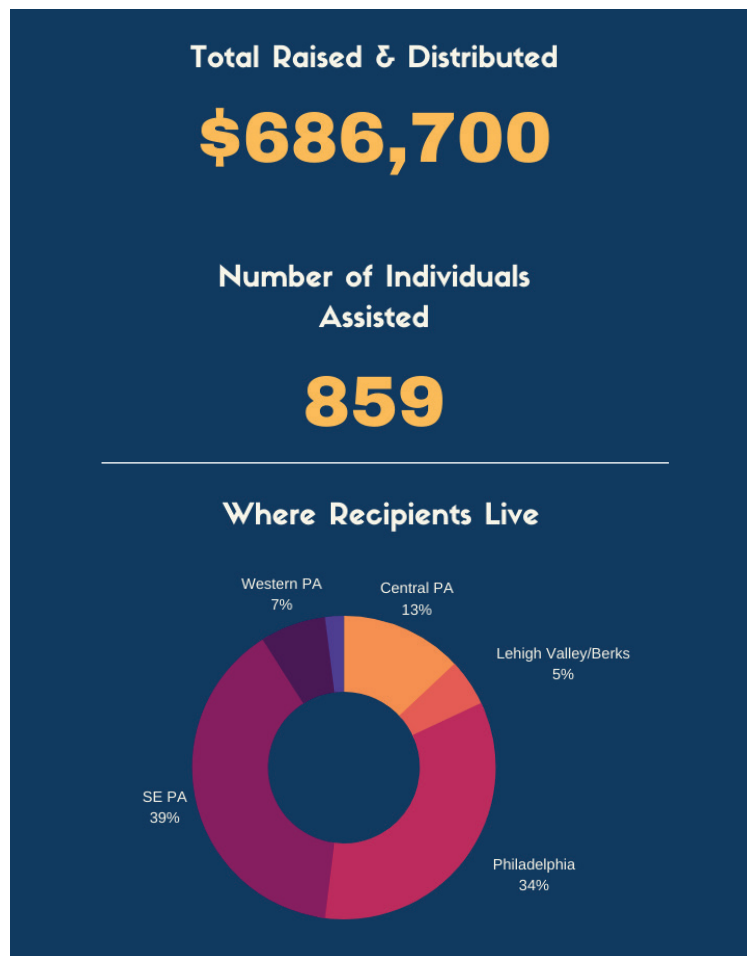
In the first weeks of the pandemic, over 40 organizations across Pennsylvania came together to form the PA Immigrant Relief Fund, a statewide fund that provided direct emergency assistance to people excluded from federal COVID-19 assistance programs due to their immigration status or the immigration status of a family member and were in need of immediate financial assistance.

This fund was a joint project of *PA is Ready!* and Philadelphia Area Immigrant Collective Action.

The PA Immigrant Relief Fund raised \$686,700. One hundred percent of all contributions were distributed directly to individuals in need.

- \$500,000 from The Albert and Mary Douty Foundation
- \$186,700 from individual donors

Between April and October 2020, 33 organizations distributed \$800 in cash assistance to 859 individuals across Pennsylvania. Recipients came from diverse backgrounds, with approximately 62% Latinx, 7% Asian, and 9% Black.



Participating Organizations

ACLAMO Family Centers
African Family Health Organization
Aquinas Center
Asian Americans United
CASA
Casa de la Cultura
Casa San Jose
Catholic Social Services/Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Ceiba
Centro de Apoyo Comunitario
Church World Service – Lancaster
Coalition for Restaurant Safety & Health
Coalition of African Communities (AFRICOM)
Comite de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agrícolas (CATA)
Esperanza Immigration Legal Services
Free Migration Project
Grupo de Apoyo
HIAS PA
Immigrant Rights Action
Jewish Family and Community Services
La Puerta Abierta
Mighty Writers
Movement of Immigrant Leaders in PA (MILPA)
Nationalities Services Center
New Sanctuary Movement
Project Libertad
Put People First! PA
Victim/Witness Services S. Philadelphia
VietLead
Welcoming the Stranger

ADVOCACY

PICC's mission centers on advocating for pro-immigrant and pro-refugee policies at the local, state, and federal levels. Every two years PICC member organizations come together to choose the organization's issue and campaign priorities. These priorities guide PICC's choices on what policies to focus on and what campaigns to support. In 2019, PICC members chose three issue priorities and two priority campaigns.

EDUCATION
JUSTICE

ENFORCEMENT
RESISTANCE

FEDERAL
IMMIGRATION
POLICY

DRIVING PA
FORWARD

SHUT DOWN
BERKS

EDUCATION JUSTICE

Ensuring that immigrant and refugee students at all levels have access to safe and welcoming schools that address their unique needs. Current campaigns and advocacy efforts include: supporting passage of tuition equity policies, advocating for welcoming school policies at all levels, increasing access to higher education for undocumented students, and fair and adequate funding for public schools.

TUITION EQUITY

In 2020, PICC brought together coalition partners, youth leaders, educators, and university representatives for monthly meetings, and developed a campaign structure, goals, and strategies to pass tuition equity legislation in Pennsylvania.

We are excited to fully launch the campaign in early 2021. The goals of the campaign include:

- Building community leadership through narrative strategy and trainings
- Organizing in universities across PA to make policy changes of in-state tuition and financial support for immigrant students
- Hearing in Education Committee



WELCOMING SCHOOLS

In April, PICC released the 2020 Welcoming Schools report presenting results from a statewide survey of immigrant students in Pennsylvania to learn about their experiences in school. Key findings from the 2020 report:

- Many students do not feel safe while at school and are concerned about ICE presence and bullying due to racial, ethnic, and immigrant identities.
- Language access is critical for student growth
- Teacher and school staff training is essential.
- Students are seeking more academic support and opportunities to grow.

PICC staff facilitated virtual workshops with member organizations, after-school programs, and youth groups across the state. These sessions were designed in response to community needs, and include information on how to pass welcoming policies, access to higher education, and know your rights.

From October through December of 2020, PICC conducted 12 workshops in 6 school districts, including Philadelphia, Norristown, Phoenixville, Pittsburgh, and Mechanicsburg. The workshops were available in 6 languages, including English, Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, Haitian Creole, and Somali, translated by community members and PICC staff.

ENFORCEMENT RESISTANCE

Fighting back against criminalization of immigrant communities and the deportation machine by supporting innovative organizing strategies and passing policies separating criminal and immigration enforcement.

PICC facilitated a series conversations with PICC members and partners on how to coordinate the different levels of enforcement resistance work happening across the state. Members identified three priorities that PICC will focus on:

- Expanding municipal “sanctuary” policies across Pennsylvania,
- Reducing the number of detention beds, and
- Passing state policies to limit collaboration with immigration enforcement.

FEDERAL IMMIGRATION POLICY

Promoting just and humane federal immigration policies.

PREPARING FOR A NEW ADMINISTRATION

After the 2020 Presidential election, PICC and members gathered to discuss priorities for federal immigration policy under a new administration. PICC will be releasing a priority platform in January 2021 that will guide our federal advocacy.

PUBLIC CHARGE

PICC was able to provide funding to 12 member organizations to support education and outreach to immigrant communities about public charge and how immigrant communities could access much needed assistance during the pandemic.

DRIVING PA FORWARD

Advocating for fair access to driver licenses for all residents of Pennsylvania, regardless of immigration status.

The Driving PA Forward coalition introduced legislation to grant driver's licenses to all, regardless of immigration status in September 2020. As a member of the coalition, PICC provided research and communications support to the campaign.

SHUT DOWN BERKS

A campaign advocating to close the Berks Family Detention Center and end family detention in Pennsylvania and nationally.

PICC continues to actively support the campaign to Shut Down Berks by providing material support to the campaign and participating in creating campaign strategy, and amplifying the campaign's work.

Over the past year, the coalition organized a series of actions that generated hundreds of calls to Governor Wolf demanding freedom for immigrant families and children, hosted car caravans outside the Berks Family Residential Center, called for children and families to be released, and held a socially-distant holiday vigil.

CAPACITY BUILDING

PICC is committed to supporting the leadership development of immigrant and refugee community members and building the capacity of our member organizations and allies to advance immigrant rights by providing regular training and developing community education materials.

COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

Provides community members and allies with the knowledge and skills to assist with a variety of immigration services, including leading know your rights workshops and assisting with citizenship applications and deportation defense packets.

In 2020, PICC held 2 Community Navigator trainings series, including virtual training sessions on Know Your Rights, U.S. immigration laws and executive orders, and basics of legislative advocacy and immigrant-led messaging.



EDUCATIONAL WEBINARS

Educational webinars for allies and advocates to learn about a variety of immigration topics and how they can take action in a way that centers the needs and voices of immigrant communities.

Over the past year, PICC hosted over 10 webinars on topics such as Sanctuary Cities, Criminalization and Immigrant Detention, Voter Rights, and Civics and Effective Advocacy.

RACIAL JUSTICE CONVERSATION

At the request of member organizations, in the summer of 2020, PICC designed and facilitated a series of conversations on racial justice that included the history of criminalization and immigration, personal identity & systems of oppression, starting a conversation with the community, and uprising as the language of the oppressed.



YOUTH ORGANIZING PROJECT

PICC supports immigrant and refugee youth across Pennsylvania by assisting with local youth committees and hosting monthly youth-led calls, organizing trainings, and an annual youth leadership convening.

2020 ANNUAL YOUTH CONVENING

Due to the ongoing pandemic, PICC shifted to a virtual youth convening. In August 2020, immigrant and refugee youth and children of immigrants came together to learn about organizing, leadership development, education justice, wellness and community building. The event brought together 15 young people between 14-25 years old from cities across Pennsylvania. Youth leaders focused on centering community knowledge and strengths by creating workshops that allowed participants to share their own expertise, experiences and resources with each other. All participants had the opportunity to create plans of action for how they want to engage in this work moving forward and how PICC can support their leadership growth.



YOUTH MEMBERSHIP

Youth membership grew to over 50 members in 2020. Youth members organized monthly membership meetings, hosted public meetings for all interested immigrant and refugee youth, and led virtual education sessions after the June 2020 court decision reinstating DACA.



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Through citizenship promotion, voter registration, and education, PICC works to build immigrant electoral power and address barriers to the civic participation of underrepresented immigrant communities.

NEW CITIZENS= NEW VOTERS PROGRAM

PICC coordinates a year-round non-partisan voter registration program at the naturalization ceremonies in the Philadelphia USCIS offices. Through this program, we ensure that all new citizens are given the opportunity to register to vote, and then given the information they need to exercise their newly obtained right to vote.

In 2020, PICC led a robust outreach, conducting a series of voter education for the primary and general elections.



2020 CENSUS

PICC worked with partners to develop and film a census education video, provide resources and regular updates to ensure that every partner organization is able to mobilize their communities.

POLITICAL POWER-BUILDING

PICC facilitates and supports initiatives to build a stronger political voice for immigrant and refugee communities across issue areas and campaigns.

1.5k
REGISTERED NEW
CITIZEN VOTERS



50+
RECRUITED
VOLUNTEERS



26
HOSTED VOLUNTEER
TRAININGS



42,217
VOTER
EDUCATION CALLS



3,896
VOTER
CONTACTS



20,520
VOTER
EDUCATION TEXTS



PA IS READY!

PA is Ready! is a statewide network and participatory grantmaking fund rooted in and serving diverse immigrant and refugee communities across Pennsylvania.

Despite the many challenges over the course of the year, *PA is Ready!* partner organizations continued to work toward the network's vision to ensure that immigrant communities across Pennsylvania have the skills and resources necessary for building safe and welcoming communities that promote all residents' well-being.

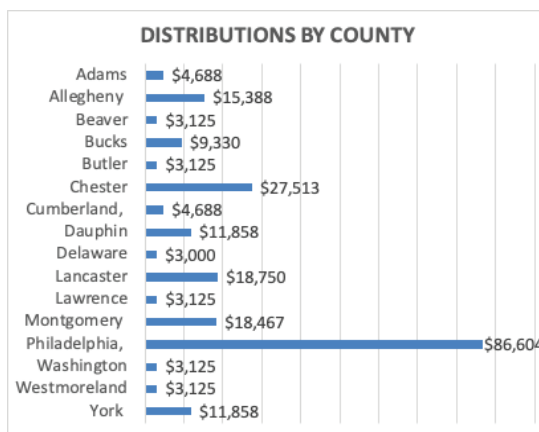
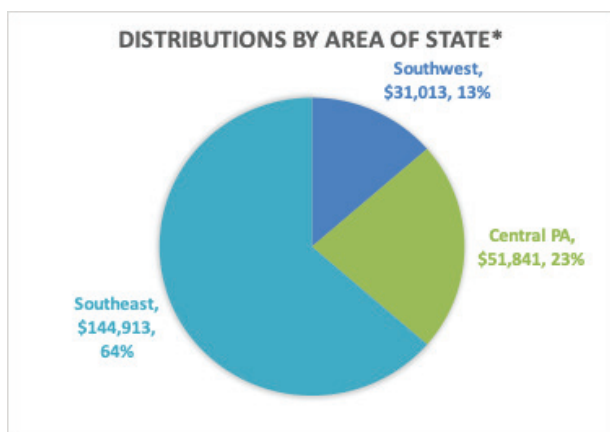
PA is Ready! is coordinated by PICC, and the Philadelphia Foundation hosts the pooled fund and provides technical assistance, fundraising support, and coordination around donor education.

2020 GRANTMAKING

The fund uses a grantmaking process that puts decision-making in the hands of organizers and service providers who collectively determine funding priorities, selection criteria, and grant decisions.

In 2020, 37 organizations submitted proposals totaling over \$640,000. *PA is Ready!* was able to provide \$227,768 in grants to 22 groups communities across Pennsylvania. Funding expanded access to information, leadership development and legal assistance for immigrants and refugees, including those facing deportation.

FY 2019-2020 RESULTS



Individuals Assisted

4,177

Applications Filed

587

Community Outreach Events

213

New Legal/Lay Volunteers

204

Volunteer Hours Tracked

5695

PA Counties Served

16

Legal Eligibility Screenings

670

Event Participants

16,746

Individuals Assisted with ITIN

174

Immigrant Leaders Trained

148

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PICC's theory of change is centered on building immigrant leadership in all areas – advocacy, service programs, policy – to ensure representation of diverse communities in decision making processes at all levels. This commitment extends to PICC's internal operations, policies, and procedures. Since 2015, PICC has been implementing a multi-year effort to strengthen its internal policies and procedures to ensure it is able to recruit and retain a diverse staff and board.

2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

STRENGTHENING PICC STAFF

PICC promoted a staff to a new position, Civic Engagement Coordinator who leads the work of building immigrant electoral power through voter registration and education programs and created a new position, Resource Director, who will lead the work of developing and implementing a movement-oriented fundraising and capacity building.

PICC hired a consultant to facilitate the Executive Director transition and formed a search and hiring committee made up of staff, board members, youth leaders, and PICC member representatives. This committee reviewed applications, began interviewing candidates, and will complete the hiring process in early 2021.

WELLNESS PROGRAM

Enhanced PICC's Wellness Program for employees to address burnout and financial stress during the pandemic.

UPDATING EMPLOYEE POLICIES

PICC continued to update and strengthen its employee policies, adding additional support for remote working and adding an extended rejuvenation paid leave policy.

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Deputy Director, Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia

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