

CASE STUDIES ON COLLABORATIVE, COMMUNITY-ENGAGED GRANTMAKING



#### REAL ESTATE AND PHILANTHROPY



## TALE OF TWO SITES

#### Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative





PA is Ready!

### HOUSTON CONTEXT

- Timing of issues
- Clear need established by data and environmental scan
- Shared city-wide
- Past experience with funder-only collaboratives
- Antagonistic nonprofit environment

## HOUSTON SET UP

- Houston Endowment and Simmons Foundation leadership; pooled funding of 2 foundations
- HILSC collaborative of 40+ organizations
  - funders, legal service providers, grassroots community nonprofits, law schools, attorneys
- Executive committee oversees operations & implementation
- Consultant to support development of city-wide decision and community plan
- Goals:
  - Build legal capacity
  - Coordination and collaboration to strengthen safety net

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• Communications plan to reach community

# HOUSTON IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES COLLABORATIVE



### HOUSTON BEST PRACTICES

• Start meetings with city-level goal/vision:

- Every low income Houstonian has access to legal services
- Right consultant and facilitator
- Keep the target beneficiaries in mind
- Big tent attitude
- Relationships matter!
  - facilitator/coordinator always follows up
- Funder participation and engagement is key

#### PENNSYLVANIA CONTEXT

- Timing of issues
- Clear community need backed by research
- PA Immigrant & Citizenship Coalition and The Philadelphia Foundation, strong history
- Established group of providers in major cities with track record of success

### Pennsylvania Set Up

- Philadelphia Foundation leadership; pooled funding of 7 foundations
- PA is Ready! collaborative of 40+ organizations
  - legal service providers, funders, grassroots community nonprofits, law schools, attorneys.
- Funder learning collaborative of 7 foundations

• Goals:

- Build statewide capacity to provide immigration assistance
- Prevent the exploitation of immigrants through immigration (or "notario") fraud
- Screen and enroll as many eligible immigrants as possible
- Build immigrant leadership and organizing capacity to engage in local, state and federal immigrant rights campaigns
- Reach the diverse immigrant communities eligible for DACA and DAPA



#### PENNSYLVANIA LESSONS LEARNED

• Challenges to statewide work

- geographic, ethnic, capacity, and technological equity and representation
- Forming/Storming
  - Nonprofit coalition met frequently to decide service delivery models and technical aspects.
  - Need more relationship building at beginning to establish ground rules for working together
  - Need to discuss community perceptions of power based on who receives funding and possible community relations issues
  - Funder balancing act to guide without taking the lead

#### PENNSYLVANIA BEST PRACTICES

- Radical transparency important with coalition
- Grantmaking review benefits from funders and those "on the ground"
- Pairing providers strengthens grants and learning
- Funders should be open, willing to share power, step back/forward!
  - Projects that try to empower marginalized communities require experimentation and risk
  - Capacity building orientation for funders and nonprofits
  - Funder briefings with nonprofit partners builds relationships; deepen cross-sector and issue understanding for all

## TAKEAWAYS?

- Data establishes need, capacity, and opportunity; share it broadly
- Values and vision-based conversations internally at foundations and with community members
- Sensitivity to local relationships and funding dynamics
- Create big tent attitude
- External, neutral party to facilitate, coordinate, provide TA
- Explicit discussions about working together, power sharing, radical transparency
- Long-term commitment on all parts

# YOUR QUESTIONS & THOUGHTS



## SILLERMAN CENTER STUDIES

- Examples of community-engaged and immigrant-integration grantmaking
  - Headwaters Foundation
  - Unbound Philanthropy



FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF PHILANTHROPY

#### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR FUNDERS:



• Resource documents:

- GCIR Funders Guide: Grants and Immigration Status
- GCIR Immigrant Integration Toolkit (available online)
- Access GCIR's online publications, join upcoming webinars
- Get connected to funding peers in other states about grantmaking strategies
- For more information, contact Althea Gonzalez, Project Manager, <u>althea@gcir.org</u>

### SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- How do the case studies relate to your context?
- What ideas were most energizing?
- How could they be applied locally?
- What would it take to implement?