

# National Immigrant Empowerment Project (NIEP)

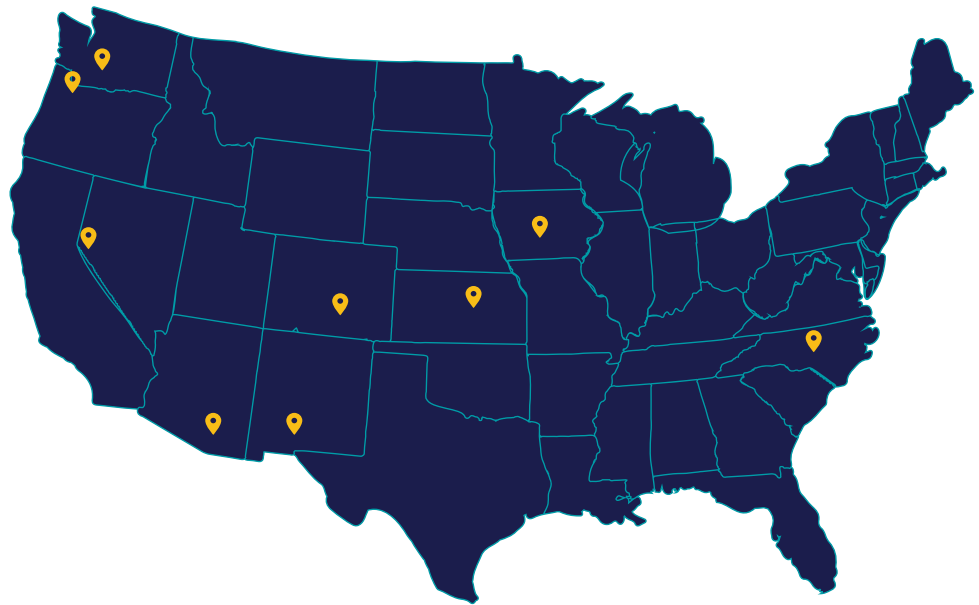
In 2019, CLINIC launched the National Immigrant Empowerment Project, or NIEP. A multi-year project that aimed to promote immigrant integration, empowerment of immigrant communities through leadership opportunities and create positive social change at the local level through immigrant led community organizing.

CLINIC selected eight affiliates to participate in the NIEP. These organizations each hired a community organizer, community liaison, and recruited interns and volunteers to address and overcome their communities' unique needs and issues.

*This project was made possible with funding from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.*

## Partner Programs

- Catholic Charities Diocese of Pueblo (Pueblo, CO)
- Catholic Charities of Southern New Mexico (Las Cruces, NM)
- Chicanos Por La Causa (Tucson, AZ)
- Church World Service - Greensboro (Greensboro, NC)
- Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice (Des Moines, IA)
- La Casa Hogar in partnership with Nuestra Casa (Yakima, WA)
- SOAR Immigration Legal Services (Portland, OR)
- Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas (Salina, KS)\*
- Sierra Community House (Incline Village, NV)\* \*



\*between Oct 2019 - October 2020

\*\*between November 2020 - September 2022

## October 2019 to October 2022 Partners Collectively Conducted:



236 Leadership Development Opportunities



2,000 Immigration Integration Surveys



247 Immigration Integration Events



411 Community Events



396 Partner Meetings

## Major Project Wins

- ✓ Created an infrastructure for immigrant-led organizing efforts to identify and address local community needs working with DACA recipients to share their stories and provide testimonies to local elected officials on behalf of advocating for bills such as Bill 3265, the Sanctuary Promise Act and the Farm Workers Overtime Pay.
- ✓ Promoted immigrant leadership development by creating the first Immigrant Leadership Certificate program in Tuscan and Nogales AZ. Through this 6-week course, immigrant leaders had discussions on navigating resources and services, responsibilities of local elected officials, how to be an effective leader, and how to make changes in the community.
- ✓ Empowered the immigrant community and prepared them to engage in activities that helped shape local policies that affected the communities in which they live by working alongside promotoras to register over 1,000 eligible voters.
- ✓ Created communities where all residents felt a sense of security and belonging by working with immigrant agriculture farmers to create a community garden to promote opportunities for families of low income to grow their food and be educated on cooking and growing nutritious foods.
- ✓ Hosted opportunities of engagement between immigrants and receiving community members to engage in ongoing cultural and social exchanges like hosting *Taste around the World* community event. This new annual celebration brings community members from all backgrounds together to share a piece of their homeland through different dishes, music, and dances.
- ✓ Provided high quality services that were responsive to community needs. Such as provide strategies and techniques to immigrant workers as they defend their rights from exploitation to improve their workplace conditions. This includes addressing issues like wage theft, sick and leave policies, and access to vaccines during the pandemic.



CATHOLIC LEGAL IMMIGRATION NETWORK, INC.