# The State Immigration Project

The State Immigration Project helps advance inclusive policies, prevent anti-immigrant legislation, and promote immigrant rights while building a deeper understanding of the role of immigrants in our communities.

The State Immigration Project began in 2012 with the goal of providing needed sound analysis, sensible policy proposals, and a more positive narrative about immigration and the changing demographics of America. Today, the project includes State Priorities Partnership groups in 15 states, covering roughly 50 percent of the US immigrant population. The work blends defensive efforts designed to thwart antiimmigrant policies with a concerted effort to show how immigrant inclusion and race equity are smart ways to make sure we all succeed. State groups connect timely research to local advocacy coalitions, creating a strong presence in state capitals. CBPP, Immigration Research Initiative, National Immigration Law Center, and Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy provide expertise and data about all 50 states, support individual state efforts, and facilitate learning and action across the network.



### State Priorities Partnership groups are working with partners to:

- Pursue inclusive state policies such as driver's licenses, tuition equity, wage and worker protections, Earned Income Tax Credit eligibility, and access to health care
- Defend against police entanglement with federal immigration enforcement
- Advance a narrative about immigrants as a vital part of American society
- Promote improvements to the safety net for everyone including immigrants

4 Funders	Carnegie Corporation Ford Foundation Foundation for Child Development Anonymous funder
1 Project Manager	Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
3 National Partners	The National Immigration Law Center Immigration Research Institute Inst. on Taxation and Economic Policy
15 State Grantees	AZ, CO, FL, GA, MA, ME* MI, MN, NJ, NM, OK*, OR*, TX, VA, WA* *New States
Other Active States	CA, IA, ID, NC, NE, RI, UT, WI





## **Project Accomplishments**

The State Immigration Project is fast becoming one of the most effective and far-reaching regranting projects run by CBPP. Since the project's initiation, grantees' analyses, narratives, and alliances, have helped make proactive and defensive wins possible, including:

- ✓ \$2.8B in one-time COVID relief and unemployment payments across eight states reaching roughly 450,000 workers who are undocumented.
- ✓ The creation of a first-in-the nation inclusive unemployment payment system in CO
- ✓ Access to state EITCs for ITIN filers in CA, CO, DC, MD, ME, MN, NM, OR, VT, and WA.
- ✓ The first-ever repeal of a "Show Your Papers" law, in CO
- The failure or veto of harsh enforcement policies in a number of states including AZ, GA, NC, and VA. And active defense against new harsh policies in FL and TX
- The adoption of full tuition equity in CO, NJ, and NY plus the adoption of in-state tuition in VA and AZ. Plus, the continued protection of tuition equity in Texas under very challenging conditions
- Access to driver's licenses in CO, MA, MN, NJ, and NY and driving privilege cards adopted in Virginia
- ✓ The elevation of refugee rights and integration in the workforce and communities in MI, MN, NC, NY, and TX
- Broader access to health care and health insurance, regardless of documentation in CA, CO, MN, NJ, NY, OR, and WA
- $\checkmark$  Success securing state funds for universal representation in CO, NJ, and OR.
- Progress on wage protection and worker rights in CO and NY and the removal of barriers to professional licenses in NM, CO, and NJ.
- <u>Hundreds</u> of reports, policy briefs, and other materials citied in thousands of news media articles, interviews, and publications including the New York Times and Washington Post.

#### GOALS

More inclusive state Immigrant integration policies.

Improved political climate around Immigration and race equity.



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2

A lasting infrastructure connecting research with grassroots organizing.

#### **OUTCOMES**



Better state policy around immigrant integration, social supports for all, and positive economic outcomes.

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Project states adding value to the work of immigrant rights coalitions In their state.



Partnership groups helping to shape a positive narrative about immigrants and people of color.



Leveraging the SPP network to add immigration advocacy capacity across the country.

## **Points of Contact**

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