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## **The CIELO Fund Raises More Than \$1 Million in its First Year**

*\$1 million raised to support Latino led and serving organizations and initiatives throughout the Inland Empire*

*In its first year, the CIELO Fund granted \$280k to 25 IE organizations, \$125k in scholarships, published original research, and supported narrative partnerships through IE Latino Voices with KVCR/NPR and Desert Sun*

SAN BERNARDINO – In Celebration of Latino Heritage Month, the Inland Empire Community Foundation announced today that the CIELO Fund has raised more than \$1 million since launching in 2022 to support Latino led and Latino serving organizations and initiatives throughout the Inland Empire. The CIELO Fund has granted \$280k to 25 organizations, awarded \$125k to Latino college students, published original research, and worked to uplift positive narratives for Latinos in the region through partnerships with the Desert Sun and the hit IE Latino Voices radio segment on KVCR/NPR.

“We are truly grateful to our donors, sponsors, and supporters who have helped the CIELO Fund raise more than \$1 million dollars to invest directly into the Inland Empire’s Latino community in our inaugural year,” **said Jesse Melgar IECF Board Member and CIELO Fund founding chair.** “As we celebrate this important milestone and the impact the CIELO Fund has made through grantmaking, scholarships, research, and narrative change, we also know that there’s work to do to continue strengthening our region which is on track to become 74% Latino by 2060. We look forward to continuing that work in the years to come.”

“This is a terrific milestone for the Inland Empire and our Latino-led nonprofits,” **said Brie Grisett Smith, Sr. VP of Charitable Giving at IECF.** “We are so appreciative of those who gave

generously to support the CIELO Fund at IECF, and to our Board and leadership who created this inspiring opportunity to benefit our region. I look forward to engaging more donors to advance this important cause because by making the needs and opportunities of Latinos visible in the IE, we can close persistent equity gaps in education, health & wellness, wealth, and more.”

### **New Research**

Last year when it launched, the CIELO Fund released [“Aqui Estamos: A Data Profile of Latinos in the Inland Empire”](#) which highlighted some of the opportunities and challenges facing the community. The findings in this report were used to inform where the Fund invested its first round of grantmaking.

Adding to this body of research, the CIELO Fund commissioned two new reports in 2023 which will be released in the coming weeks. The first focuses on the disparities in Latino representation on Inland Empire nonprofit boards of directors. The second is a qualitative study that examines perspectives from select Latino leaders in the region.

### **Building a Culture of Philanthropy**

The CIELO Fund has raised \$1 million thanks to investments from the California Endowment, the Weingart Foundation, the James Irvine Foundation, the California Wellness Foundation, the California Healthcare Foundation, The S.L. Gimbel Foundation, and support from dozens of corporate and institutional donors. The Fund has also been strengthened by more than 100 individual donations.

### **Community Led**

The CIELO Fund Leadership and Grantmaking Committee consists of Inland Latino leaders who live and work in the region. This includes a university presidents, college district chancellors, several vice chancellors, community based organizational leaders, leaders in academia, and corporate leaders.

For more information, visit [iegives.org/cielofund](http://iegives.org/cielofund)

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*Founded in 1941, the Inland Empire Community Foundation is the oldest and largest community foundation in Inland Southern California. We partner with individuals, families and corporations to build a culture of philanthropy. Since inception, we have given out over \$159 million in grants and scholarships. For more information visit the IECF's website at [www.iegives.org](http://www.iegives.org). Be a part of our conversation on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn.*