



Cultivating Inland Empire
Latino Opportunity Fund

CIELO Fund 2024 Grant Application

Request for Proposals

Launched in 2022 at the Inland Empire Community Foundation, the **Cultivating Inland Empire Latino Opportunity Fund (CIELO Fund)** is dedicated to **uplifting and investing in the Inland Empire's Latino community**. The CIELO Fund supports organizations, initiatives, and innovations that are led by—and serve—Latinos in Riverside and San Bernardino counties. The CIELO Fund also invests in the next generation of leaders through the CIELO Fund Scholarship Program, commissions original research, and works on efforts that promote positive narratives for Latinos in the IE. We are excited to open applications to apply for the CIELO Fund's second annual call for grant applications for 2023-2024.

CIELO Fund - Funding Focus

Latinos are now the majority of the Inland Empire, making up 51.5% of the population, and are expected to be 74% of the region's population by 2060. With this growth comes increased opportunity but also areas where disparities persist. The CIELO Fund has commissioned three reports ([UCR](#), [USC](#), [Latinos LEAD](#)) which inform our grantmaking priorities. These include focusing on the following areas: **leadership development & capacity building, economic mobility, educational equity, health equity, housing security, environmental equity & climate change, racial equity and immigrant inclusion. Only organizations with operating budgets of \$500k or less will be prioritized this grant cycle.** Additionally, the Fund will invite local, regional, and statewide media outlets or projects to apply for a small number of grants that focus on uplifting positive narratives with impact about the Latino community in the Inland Empire.

The CIELO Fund Grantmaking Committee intends to fund Latino-led and Latino serving nonprofit organizations (NPO) headquartered, founded, and anchored in the Inland Empire as defined by the following identity criteria:

Latino Led	Latino Serving
Latino leaders are in a position of influence within the organization meaning: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A Majority of the Board is Latino, AND2. Executive Director is Latino, or the Executive Leadership and Organizational Lead is majority Latino	Organizations that are committed to serving and empowering Latinos as evidenced by: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Programmatic services that prioritizes and target the needs of Latinos2. Has a history of serving Latinos <p><small>Note: We recognize and acknowledge the diversity in how our community identifies. We use the term "Latino" when referring to those in our community who may also identify as "Latinx," "Hispanic," "Latine," and "Latin@," among others. We define the "Inland Empire" region as fully inclusive of the counties of Riverside and San Bernardino.</small></p>

Project/Grant Scope

The project and grant scope is limited to the Inland Empire, and all funded activities will be limited to Riverside County and San Bernardino County only, with special consideration given to those organizations **headquartered, founded, and anchored** in the region. Only organizations with operating budgets of \$500k or less will be prioritized this grant cycle. Organizations will be provided resources to strengthen operations, create a pipeline of leadership and implement programs or initiatives that advance key areas of focus.

- **Leadership Development & Capacity Building** - Funding may support efforts that promote leadership development and capacity building for medium sized or small Latino led and serving organizations throughout the region. This may include board and staff development and recruitment.
- **Economic Mobility:** Funding may support efforts that result in the creation of new policies, systems, sustainable structures and institutions for an inclusive economy and the upward economic mobility of the Latino community in the Inland Empire.
- **Education Equity:** Funds may support efforts to put systems, structures, and resources in place to address the unique challenges and barriers to academic success as early as pre-K through college and university graduation.
- **Health Equity:** Funds may support efforts to address systemic barriers that result in racial and ethnic disparities in health access, care and supports in a range of areas including but not limited to: birth equity, reproductive justice, mental health, social determinants of health, and factors contributing to COVID-disparities.
- **Racial Equity and Immigrant Integration:** Funds may support efforts to empower the Inland Empire's immigrant community through naturalization services, DACA services, voter registration services, legal services, and more.
- **Media and Narrative Change:** Funds may be used to support local media outlets or projects led by nonprofits that uplift positive narratives about the Latino community with impact in the region or beyond, with a focus on one of the issue areas listed above.

Eligibility and Objectives

Eligibility

- Nonprofit, public benefit organizations with evidence of tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and not classified as a private foundation. Organizations with fiscal sponsors are also eligible to apply.
- Organizations that operate so that they do not discriminate in the hiring of staff or in providing services on the basis of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, national origin or disability.
- Organizations with operating budgets of \$500k or less.
- For media and narrative grants, consideration will be given to media outlets and projects.

Grantmaking Objectives

- Seek local, regional, and state policy solutions;
- Address a high need impacting Latinos;
- Provide flexible, unrestricted support to carefully selected nonprofits that demonstrate the interest and ability to strengthen their organizational effectiveness and capacity.
- Support nonprofits providing quality, essential services in the areas of leadership development & capacity building, economic mobility, educational equity, health equity, housing security, environmental equity & climate change, racial equity and immigrant inclusion.
- Support small budget sizes, levels of capacity, and infrastructure.
- Benefit a large number of disadvantaged, vulnerable, marginalized, and/or underserved people.
- Shape and promote positive narratives about Latinos in the Inland Empire and beyond.

One Year General Operating Support Grants

Grants awarded are for general operating costs and may support efforts that enable an organization to effectively carry out its mission by strengthening organizational capacity and infrastructure while advancing one of the CIELO Fund's key areas of focus. **The maximum request and award is \$15,000 for one year. Requests over this amount will be disqualified. Please note that not all awards will be \$15,000 – some may be smaller.**

Timeline

Jan. 29, 2024- Grant opportunity reopened

Feb. 12, 2024 - Applications due

March 2024 – Decisions released

Application Review

Grants are awarded on a competitive basis. Applications will be screened for eligibility and completeness by Inland Empire Community Foundation (IECF) staff. The CIELO Fund Grantmaking Committee will evaluate eligible applications and make grant recommendations to the IECF Board of Directors for final approval. While we hope to support as many grants as possible, funding in our second round is limited.

Notification of Results

Applicants will be notified of the results in March 2024.

Required Documents

- A copy of your current 501(c)(3) letter from the IRS.
- Your current year operating budget.
- List of Board of Directors with Affiliations and Board role (ie. Chair, Secretary, Treasure, member, etc.)

How to Apply

1. Go to the Online Application Link:

<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=inlandempire>

Follow instructions on creating an account or using an existing account

Complete all required fields on the on-line form.

2. Submit all required documents