

# THE CIELO FUND

## Cultivating Inland Empire Latino Opportunity



### What is the CIELO Fund?

"Cielo" means "sky" or "heaven" in Spanish. The name signals hope – sky's the limit – and gives a nod to the aspirations, resilience, and dreams that define the Inland Empire's Latino community.

The Cultivating Inland Empire Latino Opportunity (CIELO) Fund at IECF launched in 2022 at the Inland Empire Community Foundation. The CIELO Fund's mission is to uplift and invest in organizations, initiatives and ideas that are led by – and serve – Latinos in the Inland Empire. Leading the effort is CIELO Fund founder, chair, and IECF Vice Chair, Jesse Melgar, who, along with regional Latino leaders who make up the Leadership and Grantmaking Committee, have raised more than \$1 million to jumpstart the effort within its first year. Over 300 foundations, companies, colleges, universities, organizations, and individuals have supported the CIELO Fund directly.

The CIELO Fund is housed at the Inland Empire Community Foundation (IECF) and is dedicated to empowering the lives of Latinos in the Inland Empire by uplifting and investing in organizations, initiatives and ideas that are led by—and serve—Latinos in our region.



### What are the benefits of the CIELO Fund?

- Support Latino led and serving nonprofit organizations doing impactful work throughout the Inland Empire
- Learn about issues impacting Latinos
- Combine your gift with others to enhance impact
- Network with other Latinos who are philanthropically minded and living their passion

Based on the funds raised, grants are made at least annually. Using "participatory grant making," several donors (including the Chair) and several nonprofits work together with IECF's Grants and Community Impact team to decide and distribute grant funding.

Funds will be disbursed based on the committee's recommendations in one or both of the following ways:

- By open call, competitive application
- By invitation only

About two dozen organizations received grants that will provide a big boost for Latino communities in the Inland Empire. It's made possible thanks to the CIELO Fund. There are roughly 2.3 million Latinos in the Inland Empire, making up over half of the population.

~ ABC 7 Los Angeles





Latinos are the largest ethnic group in the Inland Empire, but this growth isn't reflected in targeted philanthropic investments in the community regionally. The Inland Empire Community Foundation is leading a strategy that specifically lifts up the Latino community.

"As the Latino community in the Inland Empire grows, so should investments in the people, organizations, and opportunities helping our community thrive. That's why we created The CIELO Fund—a fund by us, for us, that uplifts our stories and experiences while centering local organizations serving those who need it most."

**JESSE MELGAR**

*CIELO Fund Founding Chairperson*

*IECF Vice Chair of the Board*

*Senior Advisor for Strategy & Public Affairs, UC Berkeley Possibility Lab*



## Founding CIELO Fund Leadership and Grant Committee

**Sergio Bohon**

Wells Fargo Advisor & IECF Board Member

**Luz Gallegos**

Executive Director, TODEC Legal Center, Inc.

**Helen Iris Torres**

Executive Director, Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE)

**Tomás D. Morales**

President, CSU San Bernardino

**Silvia Paz**

Executive Director, Alianza Coachella Valley

**Marco Robles**

IECF Board Member and Latino Leader

**Angel Rodriguez**

Associate Vice Chancellor of Government Relations & Strategic Communications, San Bernardino Community College District

**Diana Z. Rodriguez**

Chancellor, San Bernardino Community College District

**Elizabeth Romero**

Assistant Vice Chancellor of Government and Community Relations, UC Riverside

**Marisa Valdez Yeager**

Associate VP for Government and Community Relations, CSU San Bernardino

Donations may be made directly to the CIELO Fund at: [www.iegives.org/donate](http://www.iegives.org/donate)  
For more information, contact Brie Griset Smith, SVP of Charitable Giving at [bgrisetsmith@iegives.org](mailto:bgrisetsmith@iegives.org) or call 951.241.7777.

**DONATE TODAY!**



The information provided is general and is not to be construed as tax, legal or financial advice. Your attorney or tax professional can provide additional guidance on the best options to help you accomplish your financial and charitable objectives.

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