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 Board Chair, Jesse Melgar, who, along with regional Latino leaders who make up the Leadership and Grantmaking Committee, have raised over $5 million to support the efforts within its first 4 years. 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

The CIELO Fund has raised more than $5 million in just four years. Over 300 foundations, companies, colleges, universities, organizations, and individuals have supported the CIELO Fund directly.





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.

"We are truly grateful for our donors, sponsors and supporters who have helped the CIELO Fund raise more than five million dollars to invest directly into the Latino community. The impact is causing ripple effects throughout our region and we are just getting started."

JESSE MELGAR
IECF Board Chair,
Founder & Chair of the CIELO Fund



CIELO Fund Leadership and Grant Committee

Liliana Andriani
CEO, Angel Jewelers & IECF Board Member

Sergio Bohon
Managing Director – Investments, Stifel & former IECF Board Member

Neftali Galarza
Director, Community Engagement & Partnerships, Office of the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools

Luz Gallegos
Executive Director, TODEC Legal Center, Inc.

Tomás D. Morales
Former President, CSU San Bernardino

Silvia Paz
Executive Director, Alianza Coachella Valley

Marco Robles
Former IECF Board Member & 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
Associate Vice Chancellor of Partnerships, Governmental & Community Relations, University of California, Riverside

Helen Iris Torres
Executive Director, Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE)

Marisa Valdez Yeager
Associate Vice President for Government, Tribal and Community Relations, CSU San Bernardino

Donations may be made directly to the CIELO Fund at www.iegives.org/donate
For more information, contact Brie Griset Smith, CSPG, Chief Development Officer at bgrisetsmith@iegives.org or call 951.241.7777.

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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