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## Community Foundation and Philanthropic Partners Announce New Report and Collaborative to Support Immigrants and Refugees in Southeast Michigan

- The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan is joining with Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees and The Kresge Foundation to create the Southeast Michigan Immigrant and Refugee Funder Collaborative, which seeks to address a needs gap of the immigrant and refugee population in the region.
- A Landscape Report of Immigrant- and Refugee-Supporting Organizations in Southeast Michigan, produced by Public Sector Consultants, found that immigrant and refugee require more support because funding has significantly decreased.
- Michigan is ranked fourth in the country for the number of refugee acceptances since 2012.
- The total investment in the Southeast Michigan Immigrant and Refugee Funder Collaborative currently stands at \$450,000 over two year.

DETROIT — September 5, 2019 —The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, alongside Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees, and the Kresge Foundation, announced today the creation of a new partnership, the Southeast Michigan Immigrant and Refugee Funder Collaborative (“The Collaborative”).

The impetus for the Collaborative is based on the findings of a [new report](#) that outlines the current state and several pressing challenges facing organizations that support immigrants and refugees. The Collaborative will help the philanthropic community work together to support southeast Michigan’s various immigrant and refugee communities.

There are more than 600,000 foreign-born individuals in Michigan, 70 percent of whom who live in southeast Michigan. From Fiscal Year 2012 through Fiscal Year 2018, Michigan was the fourth largest state in the country for refugee acceptances since 2012, behind Texas, California and New York. The number of refugees entering Michigan has declined by 85.7 percent since fiscal year 2016.

The four key critical issues facing the segment of foreign-born individuals in southeast Michigan that need assistance include: (1) lack of access to services; (2) poor public perception; (3) insufficient funding; and (4) a lack of strategic funding for organizations supporting immigrants and refugees.

“Organizations serving refugees and immigrants are facing increased financial pressures due to decreases in federal assistance and the growing need for supporting these members of our community,” said Mariam Noland, president of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. “The goal of the Southeast Michigan Immigrant and Refugee Funder Collaborative is

to provide a coordinated, philanthropic effort to support immigrant- and refugee-serving nonprofit organizations that address the needs of their constituents in our region.”

Federal funds given to Michigan through the Refugee Cash Assistance program and the Refugee Medical Assistance program have declined, as have the number of refugees receiving funds under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. In response to these drops in funding to Michigan from the Office of Refugee Resettlement, the need to secure funding for social services and targeted assistance has increased.

Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees (GCIR), a national philanthropy-support organization, coordinates a network of more than 20 similar collaboratives in communities across the United States, providing technical assistance and national matching funds. This effort, called the Delivering on the Dream (DOTD) initiative, brings together local funders to support immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers with essential services; address the adverse effects of policy changes and inflammatory rhetoric; and create opportunities for immigrant leadership and civic engagement.

“As we witness the marginalization of immigrants in this country, it is essential that philanthropic institutions leverage their voice and resources in support of all members of their communities,” remarked GCIR President Daranee Petsod. “We applaud the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan and partners for their leadership in developing this collaborative and look forward to working with all partners to strengthen community ties and resources.”

The current investment in the Southeast Michigan Immigrant and Refugee Funder Collaborative is \$450,000, over a period of two years.

In the coming months, the Collaborative will work with key stakeholders and community members to determine the most impactful way to provide support. For more information, visit [cfsem.org/irfc](http://cfsem.org/irfc).

### About the study

Produced by Public Sector Consultants and supported by the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, Kresge Foundation and Skillman Foundation, a new report provides data about local, state and federal funding for nonprofits that serve southeast Michigan’s foreign-born populations; analyzed the nonprofits that are on the frontlines of this critical work; and surveyed and interviewed key stakeholders and thought leaders to assess how well the region is equipped to address these populations’ needs.

In reviewing this data, the authors identified four critical issues facing foreign-born individuals in southeast Michigan. They include:

- **Lack of access to services** — Foreign-born individuals in our region have a lack access to affordable housing, and face barriers to receiving health care, employment, transportation, and other critical services.
- **Poor public perception** — Refugees and immigrants are often viewed through a narrow economic perspective. As a result, conversations about investing in ways to help them adjust to life in our region often overlook the value they bring to our communities.

- **Insufficient funding** — Services to support immigrants and refugees have long been underfunded. Recent policy changes have further widened the gap. Federal support to Michigan through the Refugee Cash Assistance and the Refugee Medical Assistance programs has declined, as has the number of refugees receiving support under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.
- **Lack of strategic funding focus** — Foundations in our region have a long history of supporting services that help our region’s foreign-born population. But, to date, there has been no regional strategy that aims to coordinate this support.

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**The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan** is a full-service philanthropic organization leading the way to positive change in our region. As a permanent community endowment built by gifts from thousands of individuals and organizations, the Community Foundation supports a wide variety of activities benefiting education, arts and culture, health, human services, community development, and civic affairs. Since its inception, the Community Foundation has distributed more than \$1.1 billion through more than 69,000 grants to nonprofit organizations throughout Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe, Washtenaw, St. Clair, and Livingston counties. For more information, please visit [www.cfsem.org](http://www.cfsem.org).

#### **The Kresge Foundation**

The Kresge Foundation was founded in 1924 to promote human progress. Today, Kresge fulfills that mission by building and strengthening pathways to opportunity for low-income people in America’s cities, seeking to dismantle structural and systemic barriers to equality and justice. Using a full array of grant, loan, and other investment tools, Kresge invests more than \$160 million annually to foster economic and social change. For more information visit [kresge.org](http://kresge.org).

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