



## Summary: Making Sense of Federal Policy Series

**Funder Briefing:** 1

**Date:** March 13, 2025

**Topic:** [CNJG Making Sense of Federal Policy Understanding What It Means for NJ: Immigration](#)

**Speakers:** **Kevin Douglas**, Senior Director of National Programs — Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees;

**Amy Torres**, Executive Director — New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice;

**Johanna Calle**, Director at the Office of New Americans — New Jersey Department of Human Services;

**Stephanie Greenwood**, Senior Strategy Officer — Victoria Foundation:

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### **HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **New Jersey Department of Human Services** – *Johanna Calle*

- The Office of New Americans was established by executive order by Gov. Murphy on July 4th, 2019.
- About 24 percent – more than 2 million – of New Jersey’s 9 million residents are immigrants, making New Jersey the third state of highest immigrant population after California and New York.
- NJ is diverse – regional data shows largest undocumented immigrants are South Asian Indians.
- **Programs available:**
  - **Refugee Resettlement Program**
    - In partnership with Refugee Resettlement agencies, refugees, asylees, and other eligible groups receive services including cash/rental assistance, case management, healthcare and employment support to ensure successful resettlement in New Jersey.
  - **Legal Services**
    - New Jersey Detention and Deportation Defense Initiative (DDDI): Free and expert legal counsel and representation provided by community based legal service providers. For individuals with low incomes, who are at risk and vulnerable to deportations or are facing deportation/removal proceedings, and do not have access to legal counsel.
    - New Jersey Legal Representation for Children and Youth Program: Provides free legal counsel and social services coordination to migrant children and youth arriving in New Jersey as unaccompanied minors seeking refuge.
  - **Language Access**
    - In 2024, New Jersey adopted a law mandating language translation and interpretation services across state government entities. The passage of this legislation represents an important step toward ensuring that state programs, services, and resources are accessible to all New Jersey residents.
    - The law requires all state government entities that provide direct services to the public to provide interpretation services and to translate vital documents into at least seven of the most common non-English languages spoken in New Jersey.

- Develop best practices to increase equity and access to services for immigrants, refugees, and individuals who speak languages other than English.

- **Resources:**

- **Employment Authorization Document Information**

- [This guidance is for certain migrants](#) who may need to prove eligibility to work in the United States. Information includes eligibility, how to apply for a work permit, and additional pertinent details.

- **Know Your Rights**

- [These materials on this web page](#) are designed to help community members and businesses understand immigrant rights and responsibilities. The fact sheets only provide general information. Legal advice is not provided, and it is not a substitute for legal assistance. Available in English and Spanish, additional languages will become available soon.

- **Flyers/One Pager**

- Visit the ONA website at [NewAmericans.nj.gov](http://NewAmericans.nj.gov)

### [New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice \(NJAIJ\)](#) – Amy Torres

- The state's largest coalition comprised of groups that span labor, faith, policy, community-based, and grassroots organizations.
- NJ is impacted by immigration due to diversity hence the reason why ICE detention is being expanded
  - Capacity Building Programs
  - Training and Resources to advocates
  - Rapid Response
  - Know your rights initiatives
  - Building and maintain strong coalitions
- NJ is the first place where ICE detention is going to expand – Newark – Delany Hall. 1,000 beds, \$1 billion in profit.
- Opportunity in NJ
  - Grow strength of immigrants right and justice work
  - Position NJ as a leader
  - Professional development/movement building

### [Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees \(GCIR\)](#) - Kevin Douglas

- Urgency to fund strategies that are designed to protect immigrant communities.
- Safety & Security
  - Ensuring frontline workers are safe and providing funding that allows organizations to have strong compensation and benefits.
- Rapid Response & Mutual Aid
  - Huge uptake in mental health support
  - Scale up investment for rapid response
  - Get creative on how to support nontraditional 501 (c) (3) organizations
- Legal Representation & Litigation
  - 5-10 greater chance of success with legal representation
  - Access to legal services and council is critical
  - Enough resources so referral networks can be set up
- Organizing, Advocacy & Power Building
  - Intersectional work – funders should collaborate on issues that align or intersect
  - Intentional funding support with pipeline of leaders who support the work

- Protecting and Bolstering the Nonprofit Sector
  - Resources needed to succeed – make sure there are training opportunity, build up physical & digital infrastructure, culturally competent pipeline to serve communities
- Narrative, Media & Communications
  - Invest in narrative research and testing to figure out how to shift narrative
  - Support infrastructure of nonprofit
  - Invest in ethic led media and community
  - Time for philanthropy to be bold – “silence will not save you”
- Liberated Grantmaking
  - Flexible, Long-Term Support – Long-term visionary support
  - Expand Beyond 5% Minimum – move resources at scale
  - Leverage Foundation Social Capital
  - Collaboratively Introduce New Resources

**Additional Resources:** [Fighting for our Future: Immigrant Rights and our Multiracial Democracy Recommendations for Philanthropy in 2025](#)

**Victoria Foundation**– *Stephanie Greenwood*

- Centralized resource hub underway in Newark for immigrant families and communities impacted by detention and deportation
- FOCUS, Newark Emergency Services for Families, Hispanic Center for Community Development Inc., La Casa de Don Pedro, Iron Bound Community Foundation, etc. – in process of rolling out three phase efforts
  - Know Your Rights and Train the Trainer Program
  - Referral to Mental Health and Legal Services
  - Leap grant of \$250,000 provided by Victoria Foundation