

ON THE Horizon

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A NOTE FROM PHYLLIS GLINK

What does it mean to center justice in our philanthropy?

We continue to reflect on this question as justice is a core commitment of the Foundation's sunset strategy and deeply tied to our founder's values.

In 2008, we intentionally began shifting more resources to community-led grassroots organizing and movement-building. This change honored Irving's commitment to the Jewish value of justice, or Tzedek, and shed more light on the critically important (yet often underrecognized and underfunded) role that grassroots organizations play in building a more just world for babies, families and communities. These groups are on the ground using community leadership development, base-building, civic engagement, and coalition building to engage directly impacted community members to drive change and be part of decision-making processes that affect their lives.

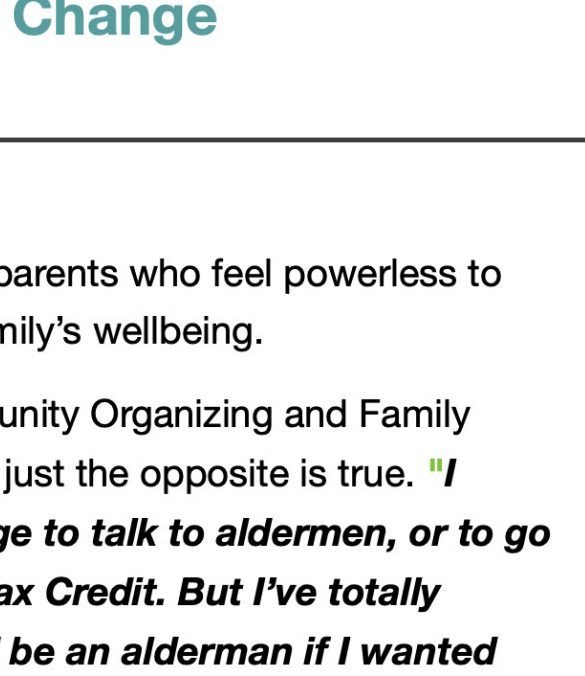
What initially started with our Reproductive Health and Justice program can now be seen across our other programs. In Early Childhood, we are investing more resources in person of color-led grassroots organizing and movement-building organizations by supporting groups like [COFI \(Community Organizing and Family Issues\)](#) featured below, [Raising Child Care Fund, Workers Center for Racial Justice, Power Coalition for Equity and Justice](#), and [Illinois Community Power Fund](#).

Some examples of grassroots grantees in our other funding areas are [National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice](#) and [National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum](#) (Reproductive Health & Justice); [Movement for Family Power](#) and [Shades of Blue Project](#) (Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health); and [Jewish Council for Urban Affairs](#) and [JOIN for Justice](#) (Jewish Values).

In the face of uncertainty and changing landscapes, the Foundation remains committed to shifting power and resources to organizers, caregivers and community members recognizing that those who are closest to the issues impacting their lives know what's best for themselves, their families and communities. We will continue asking ourselves how we can uplift their efforts by centering justice – because we know that is the way we will collectively create the conditions that lead to better outcomes for babies, families and communities.

As many of you know, last week we announced the upcoming retirement of our beloved grants manager, June Matayoshi. For this edition's Team Member Spotlight, we're excited to share a video of June reflecting on her incredible 40-year tenure at IHF! Keep reading to watch.

Phyllis Glink
Executive Director



OUR NEXT CHAPTER

IHF is excited to take the next step in our sunset planning!

We have selected [Frontline Solutions](#), a BIPOC-owned consulting firm, as our partners for this work.

During 2025, we will be working with Frontline Solutions to help us build our sunset strategies across our priorities, making sure we are holding our values and finding ways to thoughtfully engage our grantee partners. We look forward to sharing more with you throughout the year.

2023
Prepare
Lay the foundation.

2024-2025
Hold Space
Create space for processing, listening, and reflection while we work to build our sunset strategy.

2026
Amplify
Celebrate partners and share strategy.

2027-2031
Catalyze
Advance strategy and amplify stories of collective impact.

2032
Close
Finish spend-down and sunset operations.

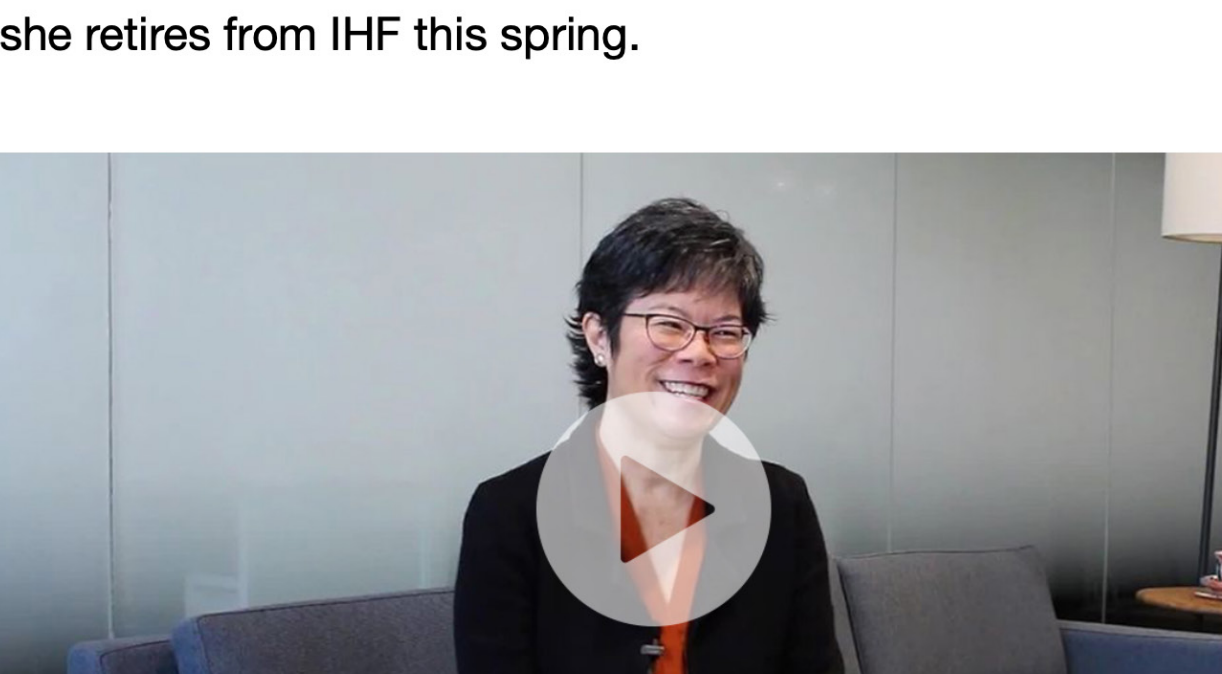
GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT



More Powerful Together: How COFI Fuels Parent-led Movements for Change

Rosalia Salgado knows what it's like for parents who feel powerless to influence the systems that affect their family's wellbeing.

But as a parent leader with COFI (Community Organizing and Family Issues), the mom of two also knows that just the opposite is true. **"I never thought I would have the courage to talk to aldermen, or to go on TV talking about the Illinois Child Tax Credit. But I've totally changed that. Now I know that I could be an alderman if I wanted to."**



Rosalia Salgado advocating for the Illinois Child Tax Credit.

Salgado is one of more than 6,400 parent advocates trained by COFI in Illinois and across the nation. Founded in Chicago in 1995, COFI's mission is to build the voice and power of parents, primarily mothers and grandmothers from Black and Brown communities. COFI believes parents can be incredibly powerful and effective leaders in shaping the public decisions that affect their lives and the lives of their families.

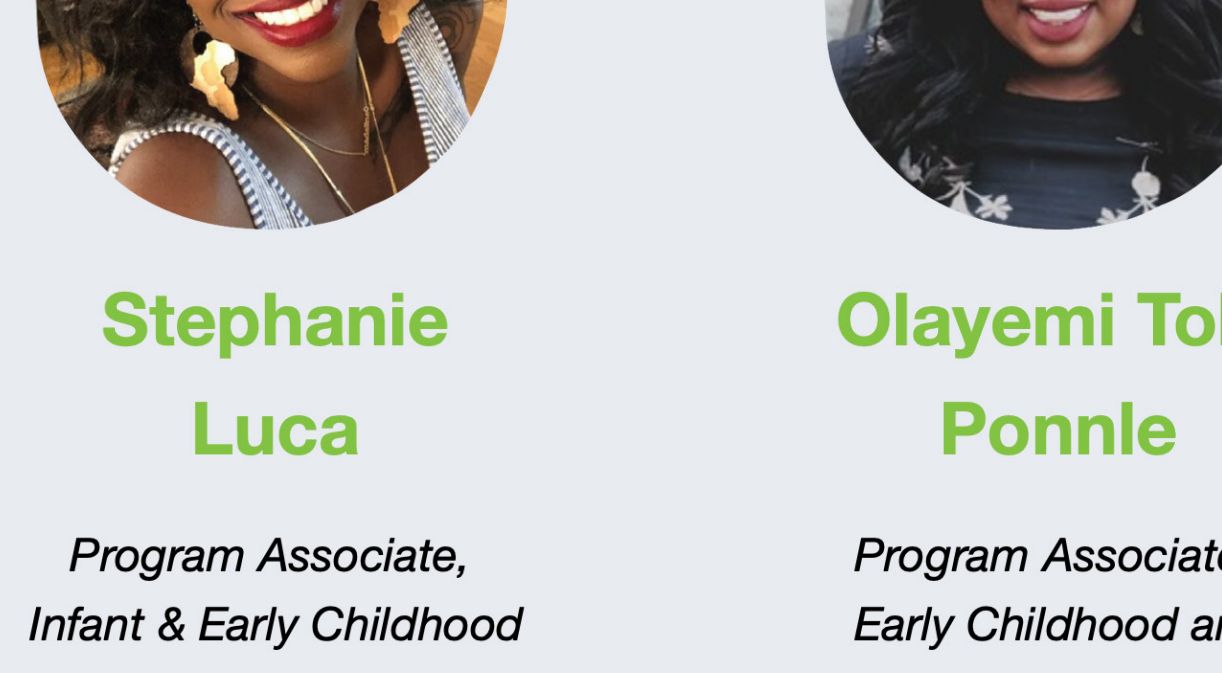
Salgado's COFI journey began six years ago as she was setting her daughters, now 15 and 11, into a new school. Looking for ways to connect with her new community, she attended a training organized by COFI parents. **"These moms looked like they wanted to teach me something, and I was hooked. I felt peace, like I was actually doing something meaningful with other moms. I found so much love and wisdom, and I wanted to keep showing up."**

Today, Salgado is co-chair of COFI's **Early Learning Campaign** and previously served as vice president of **POWER-PAC IL**, COFI's parent-led membership group. These initiatives have helped secure funding and legislation benefitting countless Illinois children and families over the years, including the recent creation of the state's first-ever child tax credit, which will provide up to \$300 for eligible families.

Salgado notes that marginalized groups often face barriers to participating in advocacy. **"It can feel like even if they have something to say, it doesn't matter. But I've seen parents work for change and live their dreams. I've seen them have the courage to show up to their kids' school and advocate for what they need."**

COFI's policy agenda is shaped and led by parents, bringing an equity lens to the issues they fight for. **"When parents are at the table and leading these campaigns, their focus is naturally on equity because there are so many inequities,"** says Ellen Schumer, executive director and co-founder of COFI. Amplifying parent voices and experiences helps policymakers create policies that work better for children and families.

Three decades into its mission, COFI now brings The COFI Way organizing model to communities across the U.S. and abroad. For its exemplary work galvanizing parent-led movements, the organization was recognized with a \$2 million contribution in 2022 from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott—the largest gift ever received in COFI's history.



An array of photos showing COFI parent leaders and their families.

Salgado continues to use her voice and leadership to advance two of her passions: education and mental health. Through COFI, she is now a community education healer, facilitating community conversations on mental health. As another mark of her leadership, she was appointed in 2023 to the Illinois lieutenant governor's Healing-Centered Task Force, a group convened to advance trauma-informed and healing-focused efforts across the state.

True to The COFI Way, Salgado's leadership is also making an impact within her own home. **"My daughters see us talking to legislators, and it makes them feel empowered, like they're part of change, too. It's a beautiful thing to see, and it's only going to keep happening. We'll keep creating more leaders."**

Proud mom Rosalia with her daughters.

TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Video Reflection with Grants Manager June Matayoshi

Watch June speak about her 40-year career at IHF (and how it supported her work as a professional freelance oboist), her favorite memory of Irving, and what she'll miss most when she retires from IHF this spring.

June Matayoshi
Grants Manager

LEARNING TOGETHER

Recent Conferences and Convenings We've Attended

Facing Race – This biennial event is the nation's largest multiracial, intergenerational racial justice conference. We joined 4K+ attendees in St. Louis to foster deeper connections and build collective power towards making a racially just world.

L to r: Denise Castillo Dell Isola, Kipa Davis, Iveree Brown Donnell, Carmen Garcia, Phyllis Glink, fakella guyton, Kirbi Range, Jacqueline Saldana-Reffor, Tonia Spence, Gregory Tate, Jawania Williams

Service Delivery Funders Meeting – Nearly 30 funders who invest in access to abortion care and service delivery work came together to process election outcomes and gain deeper understanding of the evolving abortion service delivery landscape.

Joanna Lauen

Birth Equity Funders 2024 State Exchange Convening – Ausannette served as a panelist and planning member for this national convening held in Washington, D.C., and dedicated to advancing birth outcomes at the state level.

Ausannette Garcia-Goyette

Legal Funders Meeting – Reproductive rights funders gathered to learn about field efforts to decriminalize reproductive health care, federal legal threats to contraception, and legal innovations at the state level to protect rights and access to care.

Joanna Lauen

Early Childhood Funders Collaborative Fall Meeting – We joined almost 100 funders, grantees, and community partners in Washington, D.C., for the fall member meeting. Resilient, Ready, and Raising: Shaping the Future for Young Children. Discussions focused on economic supports for children and families.

Denise Castillo Dell Isola, Carmen Garcia, Phyllis Glink

National Early Childhood Funders Meeting – Denise served on the planning committee for this convening where funders reflected on the current landscape; learned about federal policy opportunities and threats to programs and services; and discussed how we can better collaborate to support pregnant persons, babies, very young children, families, the workforce, and communities.

Denise Castillo Dell Isola, Phyllis Glink

WELCOME

Meet Our Newest Team Members

Last fall IHF was thrilled to add two new members to our team:

Stephanie Luca
Program Associate,
Infant & Early Childhood
Mental Health

Olayemi Tobi Ponnle
Program Associate,
Early Childhood and
Reproductive Health &
Justice

Please join us in welcoming Stephanie and Tobi!

We're Hiring

New opportunities coming soon—please check our website.

Careers at IHF

