

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Dear Members:

In recent weeks, there have been Executive Orders from the Federal Administration that have deeply impacted our communities in Maryland, particularly our immigrant and refugee communities. Historically, and today, immigrants have been drivers of small business and new ideas reflected in Maryland's proud history of immigration. From the Eastern Shore to Western Maryland, immigrants are vital to the economic success of communities, and enrich our school systems, faith based institutions and our state's social fabric.

As members and staff of the Association of Baltimore Area Grantmakers, we lead with our core values as we support the social sector in Maryland. Our core values include: generosity; inclusiveness and respect; diversity; welcoming, forward-thinking and forthright stewards. At this time, we are called to reaffirm these core values and act intentionally and with purpose.

Our foundations support diverse issues, strategies and communities across the region, but we are united in the belief that immigrants and refugees are integral to every aspect of our society. We believe that we must be welcoming to newcomers no matter their national origin or immigration status. We believe in generosity and care for those most vulnerable in our communities. We believe diversity enriches our communities and we must strive to advance equity. And we believe that treating people with respect is essential to support strong communities.

In accordance with our values, **we have signed the [Joint Foundation Statement on Immigration](#)** and encourage members to learn more about the impact of these Executive Orders in our communities."

Thank you,



M. Celeste Amato