**2023 Immigration is American Collaboration Network**

**Background**

Seek Common Ground (SCG) provides state and community leaders and organizations with resources, knowledge, and partnership to bring about the sustainable change that matters most to them and the people they serve. Authentic community engagement does not happen automatically. It requires time, intentionality, and investment in well-positioned organizations and leaders who can bring the needs of their communities to decision makers and ensure that they have their rightful seat at policymaking tables.

Immigrant and refugee students (and their families) are a significant and growing proportion of public-school demographics in this country. And yet the students, families, and communities most impacted by school, district, and state policymaking aimed at improving the outcomes of these students are rarely part of the decision-making process. We know from our work that community- based organizations that support underserved immigrant and refugee families and their connection to K-12 schools are critical to student success—and that they are perennially under resourced and rarely have opportunities to collaborate with one another. Therefore, Seek Common Ground is launching a new nationwide initiative, the Immigration is American Action Accelerator. Our goal is to support—through our unique model—funding, access to experts, and a supportive learning community—community-based organizations who work with immigrant and refugee families and students in the K-12 education system.

**Our Approach**

We will start this work with a “Collaboration Network,” a cohort of community-based organizational leaders meeting monthly to participate in programming to share ideas, learnings, and experiences with one another. Interested and eligible organizations will be invited to participate in the Collaboration Network on a rolling basis and will receive an honorarium and, along with SCG, co-design regular and relevant programming for a six-month period.

In the second half of 2023, our goal is to launch an Action Accelerator with a project fund to support short-term projects that participants identify, and are willing to pursue, that would both benefit their individual efforts and be models for the field. Action Accelerator participants will provide interim and final reflections on their project progress with the SCG team and broader Collaboration Network and convene for an in-person meeting.

**How to Get Involved**

If your organization, or an organization you know, may be interested in this opportunity, please email Claudia Quintero at [claudia@seekcommonground.org](mailto:claudia@seekcommonground.org). We are also interested in collaborating and learning from experts in this space. To learn more about Seek Common Ground, go to our [website](http://www.seekcommonground.org/) and learn more about our [Action Accelerator model](https://youtu.be/kexbzx3ftMc).