



For Immediate Release

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The Equal Rights Center's Immigrant Rights Program Receives Partnership for Equity Grant

WASHINGTON, D.C., November 20, 2009 – The Equal Rights Center's (ERC) Immigrant Rights Program has been awarded the Partnership for Equity Grant by the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region. The grant will support the program's work within the immigrant community to advance equality. The grant also includes a development component which will support leadership training for the ERC's Immigrant Rights Program Manager, Wendy Ramirez.

“The Equal Rights Center has, for years, been committed to the protection of the civil and human rights of our immigrant communities,” said Don Kahl, Executive Director of the ERC. **“The Community Foundation's Partnership for Equity Grant recognizes that programs like our Immigrant Rights Program, and leaders like Wendy Ramirez, are critical in addressing discrimination based on national origin. We are very grateful to the Community Foundation for becoming our partner in this initiative.”**

The Partnership for Equity is a collaboration of local grant making institutions, public sector representatives, and local thought leaders housed at The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region that have joined together to support the development of individual leaders of color and nonprofit organizations working to advance social justice and racial equity. The Partnership seeks to empower those who, due to race, ethnicity, or economic status, lack access to opportunity. They support emerging leaders and organizations that serve this population to become more fully involved in the economic, social, and civic life of the community through advocacy, capacity building, organizing, research, and public awareness.

The grant includes three components:

- **A general operating grant** of \$20,000 intended to increase the ERC's Immigrant Rights Program's work in the community and in the field of social justice and racial equity;

- **A technical assistance grant** of \$5,000 to support leadership development and technical assistance activities for the Program Manager, Ramirez; and
- **Partnership for Equity Network Membership** allowing access to the Partnership for Equity Network that offers leadership development and mentoring opportunities.

“I am thrilled that the Immigrant Rights Program has been awarded the Partnership for Equity Grant,” said Ramirez, **“We will now have the capacity to reach even more communities, promote equity and strengthen the ERC’s voice in advancing civil rights.”**

The ERC’s Immigrant Rights Program plays a pivotal role in the ERC’s comprehensive approach to advancing civil rights. The Program empowers immigrants by increasing their awareness of civil rights protections through education and outreach, counseling, and advocacy.

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About the Equal Rights Center (www.equalrightscenter.org)

Since 1983, the Equal Rights Center (ERC), a national non-profit civil rights organization, has worked to identify, challenge, and eliminate discrimination. The ERC combats discrimination in housing, employment, access to public accommodations and government services, disability rights and immigrant rights, through education and outreach, research, testing, counseling, advocacy and enforcement.