Consortium Presses Elected Officials to Support Immigrants and Communities of Color Around the 2020 Election

<u>Anti-Racism</u> - <u>Election 2020</u> - <u>Local Advocacy</u>

On Thursday, October 29, the Consortium and community partners released a <u>sign-on letter</u> to local elected officials across the state of New Jersey calling for local leaders to address threats to immigrants and people of color between the election and the inauguration.

Earlier in the month, the Consortium hosted two pre-election planning sessions focused on supporting the immigrant community through the turbulent period around the November 2020 election. The Consortium spearheaded the letter and the planning sessions in response to concerns voiced by our members, our advocacy and organizing partners, and community members regarding tensions around the election and increasing unease in immigrant and marginalized communities.

The NJ Attorney General's office has reported that the number of bias crimes in New Jersey has increased every year since 2016, with 994 reported bias crimes against people of color, immigrants, religious minorities, and other groups in 2019. Sadly, nearly half of recent bias incidents have involved children and youth.