

NISKANEN C E N T E R

Immigration Policy Counsel Proposal

The Niskanen Center seeks \$360,000 over two years in order to support the Center's immigration policy reform efforts and hire Immigration Policy Counsel. The main work of the immigration policy reform campaign is to engage in political entrepreneurship to craft and advance politically attractive immigration reform ideas. The requested grant of \$360,000 over two years will fund the salary, and other associated costs, of a new legal analyst.

As discussed in the Niskanen Center conspectus, we believe that policy change is primarily driven by Washington insiders who act collectively to decide the pace and direction of immigration policy. Accordingly, they are the audience of our outreach and education efforts.

The Niskanen Center's immigration agenda begins with the premise that legal immigration has positive economic and social benefit to the United States and that it expands the liberty of Americans by allowing them to associate freely with people from other nations. This philosophical perspective animates the Center's efforts to make legal immigration easier for peaceful immigrants.

To better accomplish these goals, the Center seeks funds to hire immigration policy counsel. This legal analyst will be an immigration attorney or other attorney with legislative experience. The purpose of this position is to work with the immigration policy director to analyze immigration statutes and regulations and develop new proposals to improve the current legal system. The immigration policy counsel will primarily draft model legislative and administrative reforms and submit comments on proposed regulations.

Political experience demonstrates that policy advocacy organizations like the Niskanen Center have historically played a decisive role in crafting politically attractive policy reforms and assembling winning coalitions to move those reforms forward. By hiring a member of staff with legal and legislative experience, the Niskanen Center's immigration policy team will be better able to identify and capitalize on opportunities for expanded legal immigration.

Two-Year Budget:

Immigration Policy Counsel -	\$300,000
Associated Benefits -	\$30,000
Administration, Research Software, Events -	\$30,000
Total -	\$360,000