

Community Foundation Sonoma County Secure Families Fund Protecting Sonoma County Immigrant Families

**Santa Rosa City Council Meeting
Bruce Goldstein, Sonoma County Counsel
September 26, 2017**



Federal Administration Proposed Policies and Executive Orders

- Barred visitors from select Muslim countries
- Limited admission of refugees
- Proposed 50% cut in immigration by instituting merit based admission system
- Cut of Federal funds to sanctuary communities
- Eliminated deportation protection for DACA youth

Threat to Family Safety: Increased Federal Enforcement Efforts

- 40,000 + people arrested since President Trump expanded scope of deportation efforts in January — a 38% increase over the same period last year.
- More than 8 million undocumented people in the U.S. could now be considered priorities for deportation, compared to the 1.4 million people were considered priorities for removal under President Obama.

Fraying of the Safety Net

25,000+ undocumented Sonoma County residents but impact far larger

- Since January 1, 2017, Spanish speaking clients disenrolled from benefits that support healthy children and families



- CalWORKs 19% decrease
- CalFresh 7-8% decrease
- Women, Infant & Child (WIC) 5% decrease

IMPACTS

- Economic Loss/Labor Shortages
- Family Stress/Instability
- Fear
- Wellness
- Public Safety
- Trust in Government



County Immigration Initiative

- Convened local immigration attorneys and advocates
- Identified severe lack of legal deportation defense resources
- Developed model service protection program
- Conducting DACA status renewal clinics
- Secured commitment from the Community Foundation Sonoma County to host The Sonoma County Secure Families donor-advised fund

THE GOAL

Raise \$2 million over three years to support a non-profit partnership to add attorneys, paralegals, and other support staff to keep families safe, informed and united, including:

- Educating immigrants, service providers, and employers on immigrant legal rights;
- Expanding legal representation and rapid community response following raids and arrests;
- Helping families and individuals secure counsel for family preparedness prior to detention or deportation;
- Combating housing and other discrimination against immigrant families;
- Coordinating *pro bono* efforts of local volunteer attorneys and community members; and
- Educating employers regarding immigration issues.

NEED FOR ACTION

ICE arrests 188 in Southern California immigration raids targeting criminal aliens

Immigration raids scare California farmers, not just their workers

Federal raids in California raise fears for immigrant communities across US

ICE agents arrest more than 50 immigrants in Central California

Reports of Raids Have Immigrants Bracing for Enforcement Surge

Federal Agents Arrest Nearly 200 People in California Immigration Raids

Immigration raids having chilling effect as fear keeps customers away from small stores

Fire and ICE: California Gets Ready for Workplace Immigration Raids

Questions?