

# 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?**