



Council Agenda Report

From: Robert Burton, Chief of Police

Subject: Immigration

Date: May 16, 2017

Facts

1. On April 18, 2017 the City Council directed staff to prepare a report on immigration. The City Council was specifically interested in obtaining more information to understand the definition of a "sanctuary city." In discussing this topic, it is also important to discuss Federal, State, and local immigration policies; understand the State's pending Senate Bill 54; and understand from a law enforcement perspective how the City's current immigration policy is serving the community. Finally, it is also important to understand the financial impacts that could potentially be incurred and how they would impact services to the community.
2. The term "sanctuary city" is not defined by Federal or State law, but it is often used to refer to municipalities that have policies in place that limit assistance for local enforcement of federal immigration laws, and the expenditure of local resources in cooperation with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE) enforcement programs. Although such policies or ordinances take many forms, they generally include limitations on local law enforcement making arrests based on immigration violations, limitations on local law enforcement gathering information about immigration status, compliance with ICE detainers, and sharing certain information with ICE, including an individual's custody status or release date from local custody.
3. The federal government has the exclusive authority to enforce the civil provisions of federal immigration law relating to issues such as admission, exclusion, and deportation. Existing law generally allows the federal government to permit, but not require, the assistance of local officials in such efforts. (8 U.S.C. § 1373; 8 U.S.C. § 1644.)

Specifically, 8 U.S.C. Section 1373 provides that:

Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal, State, or local law, a Federal, State, or local government entity or official may not prohibit, or in any way restrict, any government entity or official from sending to, or receiving from, the Immigration and Naturalization Service information regarding the citizenship or immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of any individual.

When conducting its work, ICE generally relies upon cooperation or notification from local law enforcement to the extent practicable and allowed by state and local laws and practices. Refusing to provide such notice or cooperation limits but does not prevent the federal government's ability to enforce federal immigration laws.

President Trump's Executive Order, issued on January 25, 2017 provides that "jurisdictions that willfully refuse to comply with 8 U.S.C. 1373 (i.e., "sanctuary" jurisdictions) are not eligible to receive Federal grants, except as deemed necessary for law enforcement purposes by the Attorney General or the Secretary [of Homeland Security]." A city is also subject to enforcement action at the discretion of

the Attorney General if it has policies or practices that prevent or hinder the enforcement of the federal law. A copy of the President's Executive Order is attached (Attachment 2).

It is important to note that although federal law permits the assistance of local law enforcement to assist in immigration enforcement, it is not legal for local law enforcement officers to stop, detain, or arrest people for suspected civil immigration violations.

4. The State of California has two primary immigration acts. The Trust Act was signed into law in 2013 and went into effect January 1, 2014; one of eight bills signed at the same time in the State's effort to take action on immigration reform. It requires local law enforcement agencies to release people who have been arrested once their bond is posted or their sentence is up, so long as they have no serious convictions, even if ICE officials have issued a detainer.

On September 28, 2016, the Governor also signed into law AB 2792, otherwise known as the TRUTH Act, which states that if ICE notifies a California jail that they plan to deport someone, they have to also serve a copy to the person in jail. This gives the person the "right to know" when ICE wants to deport them so they can seek counsel.

In December 2016, Senate Pro Tem Kevin de Leon introduced SB 54, which would prohibit local law enforcement officials from performing the functions of a federal immigration officer and would create "safe zones" throughout the state by prohibiting immigration enforcement on public schools, hospitals, and courthouse premises. To ensure eligible immigrants are not deterred from seeking services and engaging with state agencies, the bill would also require state agencies to review and update confidentiality policies. A fact sheet on this proposed legislation is attached (Attachment 3).

5. The Paso Robles Police Department Policy 414, entitled "Immigration Violations," provides direction to members of the Police Department regarding immigration law. Its goal is to "make personal and professional commitments to equal enforcement of the law and equal service to the public." Policy 414 permits the exchange of law enforcement information as needed to comply with both federal and state law. Because Policy 414 does not specifically limit communicating with the federal government about an individual's citizenship or immigration status, and does not prohibit the maintaining of such information, the City's policy is in compliance with the plain terms of Section 1373.

In order to reach a balance between assuring the confidence of those the Police Department serves, while at the same time addressing the presence of serious offenders, department members consider the totality of circumstances of each case when deciding to arrest and book an individual into San Luis Obispo County Jail. When an individual is booked into San Luis Obispo County Jail, the department does not need to make a notification to ICE since the arrestee information is automatically sent to ICE. For this reason, the department normally books serious offenders into jail who have committed crimes such as criminal street gang offenses, aggravated or violent felonies, significant misdemeanors, or violators who otherwise pose a threat to public safety.

In conjunction with this practice and consistent with prevailing law, the Paso Robles Police Department will also share information with ICE, if requested, where that information would otherwise be communicated with other law enforcement agencies or is available publicly.

6. If the President or Congress ultimately carries through on the Executive Order on the President's stated campaign promise to limit the amount of federal funds allocated to jurisdictions that support "sanctuary" policies, the City of Paso Robles is at risk of losing future federal funding and potentially significant levels of current federal funding. However, this would only be the case if the City Council were to adopt a resolution declaring Paso Robles as a "sanctuary city," effectively prohibiting

detention of criminal offenders with immigration status regardless of the severity of the crime. Note that this action would be in direct conflict with the City's current Police Department Policy.

The City receives various federal funds including Community Development Block Grant, Federal Transit and Transportation Funds, and Public Safety Funding. The federal funds for FY 2014-15 totaled \$7,757,883 and the funds for FY 2015-16 totaled \$342,117 (Attachment 1).

Of the funding mentioned above, anticipated future applications through federal grant programs would be most at risk because the executive departments that administer these programs have broad discretion to determine future awards, and the agency or department heads of these grant-making agencies report directly to the President.

7. Some cities and counties that don't want to become a "sanctuary city" due to the possibility of losing federal funding, but want make a positive statement in regards to welcoming immigrants, are choosing to become welcoming communities under the Welcoming America program. Most recently, the City of San Luis Obispo became a Welcoming America municipality. This program was initiated by President Obama through the Building Welcoming Communities Campaign of the White House Task Force on New Americans, which called upon local communities to endorse a set of principles to build inclusive, welcoming communities that allow all residents to thrive and advance civic, economic and social integration. Information about the Welcoming America program is attached (Attachment 4).

Options

1. Take no action.
2. Receive and file.
3. Provide alternative direction.

Analysis and Conclusions

The City Council was interested in learning more about what it means to be a "sanctuary city." This report provides background with respect to the federal and state law related to this subject and provides information regarding the alternatives to becoming a "sanctuary city." In addition, this report outlines Paso Robles's current policies with respect to immigration holds and identifies the financial impacts of becoming a "sanctuary city".

The City of Paso Robles has done a great job in protecting the basic human rights of individuals and values of dignity, inclusivity and respect for all individuals in our community. In light of the recent Executive Order issued by the President of the United States and possible future immigration reform, the City of Paso Robles has struck a responsible balance between holding criminals accountable for their actions while still building trust within the community.

The federal and state environments in which we operate on this issue have the potential to change rapidly throughout the upcoming months. Staff will return to the Council with updates as appropriate.

Fiscal Impact

If the City Council adopts a resolution declaring Paso Robles as a "sanctuary city" there could be significant fiscal impacts. Since federal efforts to deter sanctuary policies are an evolving issue that will inevitably be subject to future litigation, the precise fiscal effects associated with being declared a "sanctuary city" are not yet fully known. Nevertheless, the City could potentially be at risk of losing access to millions of dollars in funding that would otherwise be used towards various projects and programs designed to benefit the health, welfare, and safety of the public.

Recommendation [Option 2]

Receive and file this staff report, affirming the City's current immigration practice of making personal and professional commitments to equal enforcement of the law and equal service to the public. Current practice also permits the exchange of law enforcement information needed to comply with both federal and state law, and does not jeopardize federal or state funding.

Attachments

1. City's Schedule of Expenditures for Federal Awards (SEFA) for FYs 2014/15 and 2015/16
2. Presidential Executive Order - Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the US
3. SB 54 - Fact Sheet
4. Welcoming America Documents

**SINGLE AUDIT
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015**

Description	Federal Catalog Number	Pass-through Entity Number	Federal Expenditure
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development			
Pass-Through Grant:			
County of San Luis Obispo			
Community Development Block Grant	14.218	B-11-UC-06-0508	11,345
Community Development Block Grant	14.218	B-11-UC-06-0508	11,046
Community Development Block Grant	14.218	B-11-UC-06-0508	81,270
Total U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development			<u>103,661</u>
U.S. Department of Justice			
Bulletproof Vest Partnership	16.607	8045551	2,930
Total U.S. Department of Justice			<u>2,930</u>
US Department of Transportation			
Pass through the State of California			
101/46 Improvement	20.205	X079(022)	1,710,783
S River Rd Bikepath	20.205	RPSTPLE-5084(013)	31,013
Total Highway Planning and Construction Cluster			<u>1,741,796</u>
Airport Taxiway	20.106	3-6-0184-022-014	1,182,853
Total U.S. Department of Transportation			<u>2,924,649</u>
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency			
Pass through the State Water Resources Control Board			
Capitalization Grants for Clean Water State Revolving Funds	66.458	CS-06-0001-13	4,726,593
Total U.S. Environmental Protection Agency			<u>4,726,593</u>
Total Expenditures of Federal Awards			<u><u>\$ 7,757,833</u></u>

**SINGLE AUDIT
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016**

Description	Federal Catalog Number	Pass-through Entity Number	Federal Expenditure
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development			
Pass-Through Grant:			
County of San Luis Obispo			
Community Development Block Grant	14.218	B-11-UC-06-0508	6,701
Community Development Block Grant	14.218	B-11-UC-06-0508	6,701
Community Development Block Grant	14.218	B-11-UC-06-0508	21,416
Total U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development			<u>34,818</u>
U.S. Department of Homeland Security			
Self Contained Breathing Apparatus Replacement	97.044	EMW-2014-FO-05402	198,826
Total U.S. Department of Homeland Security			<u>198,826</u>
U.S. Department of Transportation			
Pass through the State of California			
S River Rd Bikepath	20.205	RPSTPLE-5084(013)	8,545
Total Highway Planning and Construction Cluster			<u>8,545</u>
Airport Taxiway	20.106	3-06-0184-023-2014	5,426
Airport Taxiway	20.106	3-06-0184-024-2015	94,502
Total Federal Aviation Administration			<u>99,928</u>
Total U.S. Department of Transportation			<u>108,473</u>
Total Expenditures of Federal Awards			<u><u>\$ 342,117</u></u>

Presidential Documents

Executive Order 13768 of January 25, 2017

Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) (8 U.S.C. 1101 *et seq.*), and in order to ensure the public safety of the American people in communities across the United States as well as to ensure that our Nation's immigration laws are faithfully executed, I hereby declare the policy of the executive branch to be, and order, as follows:

Section 1. Purpose. Interior enforcement of our Nation's immigration laws is critically important to the national security and public safety of the United States. Many aliens who illegally enter the United States and those who overstay or otherwise violate the terms of their visas present a significant threat to national security and public safety. This is particularly so for aliens who engage in criminal conduct in the United States.

Sanctuary jurisdictions across the United States willfully violate Federal law in an attempt to shield aliens from removal from the United States. These jurisdictions have caused immeasurable harm to the American people and to the very fabric of our Republic.

Tens of thousands of removable aliens have been released into communities across the country, solely because their home countries refuse to accept their repatriation. Many of these aliens are criminals who have served time in our Federal, State, and local jails. The presence of such individuals in the United States, and the practices of foreign nations that refuse the repatriation of their nationals, are contrary to the national interest.

Although Federal immigration law provides a framework for Federal-State partnerships in enforcing our immigration laws to ensure the removal of aliens who have no right to be in the United States, the Federal Government has failed to discharge this basic sovereign responsibility. We cannot faithfully execute the immigration laws of the United States if we exempt classes or categories of removable aliens from potential enforcement. The purpose of this order is to direct executive departments and agencies (agencies) to employ all lawful means to enforce the immigration laws of the United States.

Sec. 2. Policy. It is the policy of the executive branch to:

(a) Ensure the faithful execution of the immigration laws of the United States, including the INA, against all removable aliens, consistent with Article II, Section 3 of the United States Constitution and section 3331 of title 5, United States Code;

(b) Make use of all available systems and resources to ensure the efficient and faithful execution of the immigration laws of the United States;

(c) Ensure that jurisdictions that fail to comply with applicable Federal law do not receive Federal funds, except as mandated by law;

(d) Ensure that aliens ordered removed from the United States are promptly removed; and

(e) Support victims, and the families of victims, of crimes committed by removable aliens.

Sec. 3. Definitions. The terms of this order, where applicable, shall have the meaning provided by section 1101 of title 8, United States Code.

Sec. 4. Enforcement of the Immigration Laws in the Interior of the United States. In furtherance of the policy described in section 2 of this order, I hereby direct agencies to employ all lawful means to ensure the faithful execution of the immigration laws of the United States against all removable aliens.

Sec. 5. Enforcement Priorities. In executing faithfully the immigration laws of the United States, the Secretary of Homeland Security (Secretary) shall prioritize for removal those aliens described by the Congress in sections 212(a)(2), (a)(3), and (a)(6)(C), 235, and 237(a)(2) and (4) of the INA (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(2), (a)(3), and (a)(6)(C), 1225, and 1227(a)(2) and (4)), as well as removable aliens who:

- (a) Have been convicted of any criminal offense;
- (b) Have been charged with any criminal offense, where such charge has not been resolved;
- (c) Have committed acts that constitute a chargeable criminal offense;
- (d) Have engaged in fraud or willful misrepresentation in connection with any official matter or application before a governmental agency;
- (e) Have abused any program related to receipt of public benefits;
- (f) Are subject to a final order of removal, but who have not complied with their legal obligation to depart the United States; or
- (g) In the judgment of an immigration officer, otherwise pose a risk to public safety or national security.

Sec. 6. Civil Fines and Penalties. As soon as practicable, and by no later than one year after the date of this order, the Secretary shall issue guidance and promulgate regulations, where required by law, to ensure the assessment and collection of all fines and penalties that the Secretary is authorized under the law to assess and collect from aliens unlawfully present in the United States and from those who facilitate their presence in the United States.

Sec. 7. Additional Enforcement and Removal Officers. The Secretary, through the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, shall, to the extent permitted by law and subject to the availability of appropriations, take all appropriate action to hire 10,000 additional immigration officers, who shall complete relevant training and be authorized to perform the law enforcement functions described in section 287 of the INA (8 U.S.C. 1357).

Sec. 8. Federal-State Agreements. It is the policy of the executive branch to empower State and local law enforcement agencies across the country to perform the functions of an immigration officer in the interior of the United States to the maximum extent permitted by law.

(a) In furtherance of this policy, the Secretary shall immediately take appropriate action to engage with the Governors of the States, as well as local officials, for the purpose of preparing to enter into agreements under section 287(g) of the INA (8 U.S.C. 1357(g)).

(b) To the extent permitted by law and with the consent of State or local officials, as appropriate, the Secretary shall take appropriate action, through agreements under section 287(g) of the INA, or otherwise, to authorize State and local law enforcement officials, as the Secretary determines are qualified and appropriate, to perform the functions of immigration officers in relation to the investigation, apprehension, or detention of aliens in the United States under the direction and the supervision of the Secretary. Such authorization shall be in addition to, rather than in place of, Federal performance of these duties.

(c) To the extent permitted by law, the Secretary may structure each agreement under section 287(g) of the INA in a manner that provides the most effective model for enforcing Federal immigration laws for that jurisdiction.

Sec. 9. Sanctuary Jurisdictions. It is the policy of the executive branch to ensure, to the fullest extent of the law, that a State, or a political subdivision of a State, shall comply with 8 U.S.C. 1373.

(a) In furtherance of this policy, the Attorney General and the Secretary, in their discretion and to the extent consistent with law, shall ensure that jurisdictions that willfully refuse to comply with 8 U.S.C. 1373 (sanctuary jurisdictions) are not eligible to receive Federal grants, except as deemed necessary for law enforcement purposes by the Attorney General or the Secretary. The Secretary has the authority to designate, in his discretion and to the extent consistent with law, a jurisdiction as a sanctuary jurisdiction. The Attorney General shall take appropriate enforcement action against any entity that violates 8 U.S.C. 1373, or which has in effect a statute, policy, or practice that prevents or hinders the enforcement of Federal law.

(b) To better inform the public regarding the public safety threats associated with sanctuary jurisdictions, the Secretary shall utilize the Declined Detainer Outcome Report or its equivalent and, on a weekly basis, make public a comprehensive list of criminal actions committed by aliens and any jurisdiction that ignored or otherwise failed to honor any detainers with respect to such aliens.

(c) The Director of the Office of Management and Budget is directed to obtain and provide relevant and responsive information on all Federal grant money that currently is received by any sanctuary jurisdiction.

Sec. 10. Review of Previous Immigration Actions and Policies. (a) The Secretary shall immediately take all appropriate action to terminate the Priority Enforcement Program (PEP) described in the memorandum issued by the Secretary on November 20, 2014, and to reinstitute the immigration program known as "Secure Communities" referenced in that memorandum.

(b) The Secretary shall review agency regulations, policies, and procedures for consistency with this order and, if required, publish for notice and comment proposed regulations rescinding or revising any regulations inconsistent with this order and shall consider whether to withdraw or modify any inconsistent policies and procedures, as appropriate and consistent with the law.

(c) To protect our communities and better facilitate the identification, detention, and removal of criminal aliens within constitutional and statutory parameters, the Secretary shall consolidate and revise any applicable forms to more effectively communicate with recipient law enforcement agencies.

Sec. 11. Department of Justice Prosecutions of Immigration Violators. The Attorney General and the Secretary shall work together to develop and implement a program that ensures that adequate resources are devoted to the prosecution of criminal immigration offenses in the United States, and to develop cooperative strategies to reduce violent crime and the reach of transnational criminal organizations into the United States.

Sec. 12. Recalcitrant Countries. The Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of State shall cooperate to effectively implement the sanctions provided by section 243(d) of the INA (8 U.S.C. 1253(d)), as appropriate. The Secretary of State shall, to the maximum extent permitted by law, ensure that diplomatic efforts and negotiations with foreign states include as a condition precedent the acceptance by those foreign states of their nationals who are subject to removal from the United States.

Sec. 13. Office for Victims of Crimes Committed by Removable Aliens. The Secretary shall direct the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to take all appropriate and lawful action to establish within U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement an office to provide proactive, timely, adequate, and professional services to victims of crimes committed by removable aliens and the family members of such victims. This office shall provide quarterly reports studying the effects of the victimization by criminal aliens present in the United States.

Sec. 14. *Privacy Act.* Agencies shall, to the extent consistent with applicable law, ensure that their privacy policies exclude persons who are not United States citizens or lawful permanent residents from the protections of the Privacy Act regarding personally identifiable information.

Sec. 15. *Reporting.* Except as otherwise provided in this order, the Secretary and the Attorney General shall each submit to the President a report on the progress of the directives contained in this order within 90 days of the date of this order and again within 180 days of the date of this order.

Sec. 16. *Transparency.* To promote the transparency and situational awareness of criminal aliens in the United States, the Secretary and the Attorney General are hereby directed to collect relevant data and provide quarterly reports on the following:

(a) the immigration status of all aliens incarcerated under the supervision of the Federal Bureau of Prisons;

(b) the immigration status of all aliens incarcerated as Federal pretrial detainees under the supervision of the United States Marshals Service; and

(c) the immigration status of all convicted aliens incarcerated in State prisons and local detention centers throughout the United States.

Sec. 17. *Personnel Actions.* The Office of Personnel Management shall take appropriate and lawful action to facilitate hiring personnel to implement this order.

Sec. 18. *General Provisions.* (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

(i) the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof; or

(ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Donald Trump", located in the upper right quadrant of the page.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
January 25, 2017.

[FR Doc. 2017-02102
Filed 1-27-17; 11:15 am]
Billing code 3295-F7-P



SENATOR KEVIN DE LEÓN PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

SB 54 (De León) The California Values Act

Purpose

To protect the safety and well-being of all Californians by ensuring that state and local resources are not used to fuel mass deportations, separate families, and ultimately hurt California's economy.

Background

The President has stated publicly that he will order the increased deportation of a broad category of immigrants and that doing so will be a top priority. Any expansion of federal deportation efforts will have a significant effect on California's economy and society.

A relationship of trust between California's immigrant residents and our state and local agencies, including police, schools, and hospitals, is essential to carrying out basic state and local functions. That trust is threatened when state and local agencies are involved in immigration enforcement.

According to the President Obama's Taskforce on 21st Century Policing, "Immigrants often fear approaching police officers when they are victims of and witnesses to crimes and when local police are entangled with federal immigration enforcement. At all levels of government, it is important that laws, policies, and practices not hinder the ability of local law enforcement to build the strong relationships necessary to public safety and community well-being. It is the view of this task force that whenever possible, state and local law enforcement should not be involved in immigration enforcement."¹ A study conducted by the University of Illinois similarly found that 44 percent of Latinos are less likely to contact police officers if they have been the victim of a crime because they fear that police officers will use this interaction as an opportunity to inquire about their immigration status or that of people they know.²

California is already familiar with the harmful effects of entangling local law enforcement agencies with immigration enforcement. Prior to its termination, the discredited "Secure Communities" program (S-Comm) operated in California as an indiscriminate mass deportation program at great cost to California both financially and otherwise. According to a report prepared by Justice Strategies in 2012, when the Secure Communities

¹ Final Report of the President's Taskforce on 21st Century Policing (May 2016).

² Insecure Communities: Latino Perceptions of Police Involvement in Immigration Enforcement, Nik Theodore, Dep't of Urban Planning and Policy, University of Illinois at Chicago (May 2013)

program was still active, California taxpayers spent an estimated \$65 million annually to detain people for ICE.³

For that reason, it is necessary to evaluate the appropriate use of state and local resources for immigration enforcement purposes and recognize the devastating impact deportations have on a state with thousands of mixed status families, and a heavily immigrant workforce.

Proposal

The California Values Act will provide essential safeguards to ensure that police, schools, health facilities, and courts remain accessible to Californians from all walks of life and that California's limited resources are directed to matters of greatest concern to state and local governments.

1. State and local law enforcement agencies and school police and security departments will not engage in immigration enforcement. No state or local resources will be used to investigate, detain, detect, or arrest persons for immigration enforcement purposes. No state or local law enforcement agency will detain or transfer any person for deportation *without a judicial warrant*.
2. State agencies will review their confidentiality policies in order to ensure that eligible individuals are not deterred from seeking services or engaging with state agencies. State agencies shall not collect or share information from individuals unless necessary to perform agency duties.
3. California schools, health facilities, and courthouses will remain safe and accessible to all California residents, regardless of immigration status. Each shall establish and make public policies that limit immigration enforcement on their premises to the fullest extent possible consistent with federal and state law.

Support

Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors
Alliance for Boys and Men of Color
Alliance San Diego
American Academy of Pediatrics, California
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - California
Asian American Criminal Trial Lawyers Association
Asian Law Alliance
ASPIRE
Bill Wilson Center
California Adolescent Health Collaborative
California Association for Bilingual Education
California Central Valley Journey for Justice
California La Raza Lawyers Association
California Partnership to End Domestic Violence
Californians for Justice Education Fund
Californians Together Coalition

³ See Judith Greene, "The Cost of Responding to Immigration Detainers in California," Justice Strategies Report, August 22, 2012.

Center for Gender & Refugee Studies
Central American Resource Center - Los Angeles
Centro Laboral de Graton
Children's Defense Fund - CA
Courage Campaign
CREDO
Dream Team Los Angeles
Equality California
Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project of Catholic Charities of Los Angeles
Evergreen Teachers Association
Faith in the Valley
Filipino Youth Coalition
Immigrant Legal Resource Center
Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice
Inland Empire Immigrant Youth Coalition
Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance
La Raza Roundtable de California
Latino and Latina Roundtable
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California
Loyola Immigrant Justice Clinic
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund
Mi Familia Vota
Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project
Monument Impact
Muslim Student Association West
National Lawyers Guild, Los Angeles
North County Immigration Task Force of San Diego
National Council of Jewish Women California
National Day Laborer Organizing Network
National Immigration Law Center
Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress
Nikkei Progressives
Orange County Immigrant Youth United
Our Family Coalition
Pangea Legal Services
PolicyLink
San Diego Dream Team
San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium
San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association
San Joaquin Immigrant Youth Collective
Santa Cruz County Immigrant Rights Project
Services, Immigrant Rights, and Education Network
SEIU Local 1021
Somos Mayfair
South Asian Network
Tongan American Youth Foundation
The Children's Partnership
Training Occupational Development Educating Communities Legal Center

Unite Here
Uplift
Village Connect, Inc.
Voices for Progress Education Fund
Warehouse Worker Resource Center
YWCA Glendale

*For more information, please contact Alexandra Salgado, (916) 651-4024,
Alexandra.Salgado@sen.ca.gov*

FAQS

WHAT IS WELCOMING AMERICA?

Welcoming America leads a movement of inclusive communities becoming more prosperous by making everyone feel like they belong. We believe that all people, including immigrants, should be valued contributors and are vital to the success of both our communities and our shared future.

As a non-profit, non-partisan organization, Welcoming America is proud to support the diverse communities and partners who are leading efforts to make their communities more vibrant places for all.

WHAT IS A WELCOMING COMMUNITY?

Just as fertile soil is needed for a seed to grow, welcoming communities foster a culture and policy environment that makes it possible for newcomers of all backgrounds to feel valued and to fully participate alongside their neighbors in the social, civic, and economic fabric of their adopted hometowns.

HOW IS WELCOMING AMERICA'S APPROACH DIFFERENT?

Welcoming America's groundbreaking social change model is unique in its holistic local focus – our approach goes beyond a single program or service to work with institutions across the community to reduce the barriers that immigrants face to fully participating, and build bridges between newcomers and long-time residents.

WHERE DOES WELCOMING AMERICA WORK?

Welcoming America helps local governments and nonprofit organizations to build a welcoming infrastructure in more than 100 communities across the United States, and we are piloting international welcoming efforts in Germany and Australia. [Here's a map](#) of where we work.

A significant proportion of the nation's major cities, as well as many smaller towns and communities, have chosen to participate in the Welcoming Cities and Counties Network, an independent, non-partisan initiative, which today includes places ranging from Salt Lake City and County, Utah, to Cincinnati, Ohio, and inclusive of major US cities like Philadelphia, Houston, Denver, and Los Angeles. These leading places recognize that being welcoming is a key strategy for attracting and retaining people of all backgrounds, and for broad community revitalization.

HOW DO WELCOMING COMMUNITIES BENEFIT US?

Becoming a more inclusive community means a more vibrant culture, more jobs created by immigrant entrepreneurs, and a thriving economy that benefits us all.

Welcoming helps us work together to make sure that all of us - white, black, Christian, Muslim, or any faith - are part of making a community a great place to live. By giving each person an equal opportunity to contribute, it makes the entire community stronger.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A MEMBER OF WELCOMING AMERICA AND WHO CAN JOIN?

Local governments and nonprofits are eligible to join Welcoming America's network. Members commit to advancing and institutionalizing welcoming efforts in their community, and they receive benefits including ideas, approaches, training, resources, networking, certification, and leveraged funding. Learn more about commitments and benefits of joining as a local government or nonprofit.

WHAT IS A WELCOMING CITY OR COUNTY?

A Welcoming City or County is one that joins Welcoming America and that:

- **Plans:** All relevant sectors, such as government, business, non-profit, and others, work together to create a welcoming community climate that supports long-term integration.
- **Commits:** Municipalities commit to institutionalize strategies ensuring the ongoing inclusion and long-term economic and social integration of newcomers.
- **Builds Community:** Newcomers and long-time residents find common ground and shared leadership.
- **Communicates:** Messages of unity and shared values permeate the community through the media, through the voices of leaders, and among residents.
- **Sustains:** Policies and practices are considered to ensure interactions between new and long-time residents remain positive ones and the community's economic vitality remains strong.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WELCOMING CITIES AND "SANCTUARY CITIES"?

A Welcoming City or County is one that joins the Welcoming America network and works across multiple sectors, such as government, business, and non-profit, to create inclusive policies and practices such as making it easier for entrepreneurs to start a business or having government documents available in multiple languages. Welcoming Cities are guided by the principles of inclusion and creating communities that prosper because everyone feels welcome, including immigrants and refugees.

There is no legal definition for a "Sanctuary city". Nevertheless, a commonality among cities that have adopted sanctuary-type policies is a desire to resist changes in the law that would require local criminal law enforcement agencies to do the federal government's job of enforcing immigration laws. Many do this by preventing local officials from asking people about their immigration status. Other cities refuse to use local resources to detain immigrants. The main purpose for these types of policies is to comply with constitutional requirements and to protect public safety by maintaining positive relationships between local law enforcement and immigrant communities.

LEARN MORE

WHO SUPPORTS WELCOMING COMMUNITIES?

Our growing network benefits from broad community support from a range of mainstream partners. Represented among the organizations that are collaborating with Welcoming Cities and Counties at the local level are faith, civic and corporate partners, as well as broad bi-partisan support. These include:

- Numerous corporate partners and economic development agencies, as well as local financial institutions, Main Street entrepreneurs, and larger employers.
- Civic partners, ranging from local YMCAs to universities and educational partners.
- Public sector partners, including not only mayors, county executives, governors, and other local and state elected officials, but police chiefs, school board members, and many others, across the political spectrum.
- Local philanthropic partners, from the United Way to community foundations.
- Partners across multiple faiths.

Together, this broad range of welcoming communities and ambassadors are building prosperous futures and stronger communities. We see this reflected in simple things, like more parents participating in PTAs and more entrepreneurs opening businesses on Main Street.

WHAT DOES WELCOMING AMERICA DO?

A growing number of cities and towns recognize that being welcoming leads to prosperity and are looking for a roadmap and support to take action. Welcoming America provides the inspiration and foundation for this growing movement, bringing together an innovative and growing network of local governments and nonprofits through our **Welcoming Network** to help them transform communities into more inclusive places. We provide ideas, approaches, training, resources, networking, certification, and leveraged funding as we share new approaches to inclusion and promising practices to help create an environment where everyone can truly thrive.

Those in our network may get more involved by joining **Welcoming Cities and Counties** or **Welcoming Economies Global Network**. Through **Welcoming International**, we share best practices through cross-country knowledge exchanges to grow the welcoming movement worldwide.

We build on the great work happening in local communities by providing tested approaches to creating inclusive, welcoming places for immigrants and all residents. Our **Welcoming Institute** provides online and in-person training, and our **Welcoming Refugees** initiative offers support to ensure the success of refugees in their new communities, supported by the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement.

We work to change systems and culture by helping communities create policy, reinforce welcoming principles, and communicate the socioeconomic benefits of inclusion. Our **Welcoming Standard** guides communities on their path to welcoming, and each year during **Welcoming Week**, we help organize hundreds of local events to bring together diverse residents in a spirit of unity and celebrate making communities welcoming for everyone. Today, one in every eight Americans lives in a welcoming community.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR VALUES

WHY BUILD WELCOMING COMMUNITIES?

Welcoming communities are safer, stronger, and more vibrant.

They are inclusive places where neighbors get to know one another. Being a welcoming community is about inviting new Americans to join us in building strong communities, finding strength in our diversity, and resisting fear and division.

Welcoming communities connect new residents to their neighbors and to local government, creating a climate where immigrants and refugees become deeply involved in their community and invest their time, money, and hopes.

WHO SUPPORTS WELCOMING AMERICA?

Our work is funded by hundreds of individual donors, foundations and other public and private organizations every year.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Become a member: Municipal governments and nonprofits can join Welcoming America's network to make their communities more inclusive.

Participate in Welcoming Week: Learn more about hosting or participating in an event in your community.

Make a donation: Help make our nation more welcoming to immigrants, one community at a time. Welcoming America is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and our Federal Tax ID is 27-1049805.



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Take a stand for welcoming: Learn how to participate in #WelcomingWeek & #ImmigrantHeritageMonth <https://t.co/C2DslJUfHh>
@IAmAnImmigrant

May 3

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