

Bay Area Responds: County by County

Resistance to Federal Actions

Rise Together asked our Power of 9 committee, made up of representatives from multiple sectors in each of the 9 Bay Area Counties, to share with us how their communities are approaching planning and response to the new Federal political landscape and budget proposal. Here is what we have learned so far:



ALAMEDA COUNTY

- Immigration protections:
 - Held a Day of Unity and Action via Facebook Live Stream with Legislative Staff
 - Created an Adhoc Committee on Immigrants and Refugee Rights that brought government, community and philanthropy together, with [\\$1.5 fund created to provide legal aid and services to families impacted by federal policies](#)
 - Creating story bank on immigration (currently collecting stories)
 - Increasing Know Your Rights workshops
 - [Active partnership with City of Oakland and Oakland Unified School District to adopt sanctuary status](#)
 - [Fremont Unified School District Resolution](#)
 - [Sanctuary City Status:](#)
 - [City of Alameda](#), [Berkeley](#), Emeryville, San Leandro, Fremont, Hayward
 - [Alameda County Sheriff's Office General Order](#)
- Health Care:
 - Sponsored a public forum with County Lobbyist about the new landscape's potential impact on ACA and Safety Net programs such as CalFresh
 - Ongoing efforts to increase CalFresh program enrollment
 - Launched Food as Medicine Initiative with All in Alameda County, UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland, Deputy Sheriffs' Activities League, Alameda County Community Food Bank, and the County Public Health Department
- Safety Net Protections:
 - Advocated against budget proposal to shift cost of In Home Support Services to County
 - Protecting surplus funding to potentially back-fill services if needed
 - Investigating data protection for CalFresh program to decrease clients withdrawing from program for out of fear

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

➤ Immigration Protections:

- Advocates are calling on elected officials to respond to uncertainty from the Federal level
- Proposed allocation of funding by Board of Supervisors (matched by local foundations) to create Rapid Response Network to provide legal services for undocumented immigrants
- Advocates met individually with each member of the Board of Supervisors to educate them on the structural constraints faced by county department heads in their efforts to proactively reassure residents that the county welcomes them and that there has been no change in availability of benefits or services. Result: the chair of the Board agreed to bring a motion directing county department heads to take such steps to reassure local residents
- New Contra Costa Immigrant Rights Alliance formed to coordinate strategies and actions by diverse coalition of immigrant advocates, attorneys, faith communities, labor, anti-poverty initiatives and other allies
- Racial Justice Coalition is meeting & strategizing to push for less cooperation by the county Sheriff and Probation Departments with ICE, including opposing the proposed construction of a new detention facility in West County that would include 200 beds for ICE detainees
- Numerous Know your Rights workshops with community groups and First 5 families
- 500+ attended May Day Rally in Concord in support of immigrant communities
- First 5 Contra Costa with the Family Economic Security Partnership hosted forum on impact of state and federal budget decisions on children in immigrant families

➤ Health Care:

- Three members of the Board of Supervisors hosted Health Care Town Halls within their respective districts, with a focus on threats to the ACA; 400 people attended the Concord event and the others were well attended as well.
- County Board of Supervisors renewed \$500k funding, plus an additional \$250k for expanded care, for the Contra Costa CARES program, which provides primary and preventive care for undocumented adults. The funds were matched by a consortium of local nonprofit hospitals

➤ Safety Net Protections:

- Advocated successfully for Governor to “un-pause” the pause of subsidized childcare funding and expand eligibility to offset the state’s minimum wage increase
- Advocating to expand of California Earned Income Tax Credits (CalEITC)
- Public/community partnership continues collaborative efforts to increase CalFresh program enrollment

MARIN COUNTY

- Immigration Protections:
 - Community Action Marin hosted an Equity Summit, and is planning a 2nd summit for the Fall to bring the community together around current issues
 - Community Action Marin hosted a Day of Healing and small Fire Side Chats to promote open dialogue among different groups
 - Held May Day Rally in support of immigrant communities
 - Created Rapid Response Hotline/Network
 - Canal Alliance /Fair Housing Association of Northern California are implementing Know Your Rights workshops and looking at data protection
 - Expanded Know Your Rights Trainings and Community Education
 - Community Foundation created rapid response grants for legal aid services
 - Local law enforcement commitment to not assist ICE
 - City San Rafael/Marin County are exploring sanctuary status
 - The organizational links below are just a few of the many Statements and Resolutions of support released from Rise Together's partner organizations in Marin:
 - [Canal Alliance](#)
 - [College of Marin](#)
 - [Lagunitas School District](#)
 - [Larkspur Corte Madera School District](#)
 - [San Rafael City Schools](#)
 - [Novato Unified School District](#)
 - [Marin County Office of Education](#)
 - [Dominican University of California](#)

- Health Care:
 - First 5 Marin Commissioners published two opinion pieces in the Independent Journal
 - First 5 Marin held a communications forum on "Caring for Kids in Turbulent Times" focused on the impact of federal immigration policy

- Safety Net Protections:
 - Affordable Housing/Landlord Engagement on Section 8 Program increased acceptance by 35 landlords since November
 - County Board of Supervisors adopted Equity Plan in response to HUD CDBG funding cut
 - Housing Acquisition Strategy is now being developed
 - Marin County Educational Organizations and Community Based Organizations are voicing support for all students including immigrant students and their families.

NAPA COUNTY

- Immigration Protections:
 - Immigrant Town Hall Meetings with Congressman Mike Thompson
 - May Day Rally/Marches at City Hall

- Passed a county-wide (including all cities) proclamation in support of immigrant protections
 - Continue support of One Napa Valley, a county wide collaborative citizenship initiative funded through the Napa Valley Community Foundation.
 - [Some school districts declared “Safe Haven” for immigrant students](#)
 - [Arts Council Napa Valley Statement](#)
- Health Care:
- Mental & Health Care providers changing business model in lieu of ACA Repeal by looking at alternative financing mechanism such as “Soda Tax” idea

SAN FRANCISCO CITY/COUNTY

- Immigration Protections:
- [Law Suit filed against federal government regarding sanctuary status](#)
 - May Day Rally/Protests & Parades in support of immigrant communities
 - Coordinated Rapid Response for ICE raids
 - Allocated funding legal aid & services for immigration/deportation lawyers through CBOs
 - Data protection is being looked at to keep people on public benefits and services
 - Issued statement on how to manage ICE at public housing establishments
 - Hosted Unity Meeting with Mayor and City
 - Departments hosting internal brown bags to support staff
 - [San Francisco Unified School District Reaffirming Sanctuary District](#)
- Health Care:
- Universal healthcare- SF Health Plan was re-instituted
 - Advocated against ACA repeal
 - Alignment between Public Health Department and Hospitals
- Safety Net Protections:
- Opened new Homeless Department to coordinate care and services
 - Directive was given to find a way to backfill all federally funded services to prepare for safety net programs cuts and ACA repeal

SAN MATEO COUNTY

- Immigration Protections:
- Multiple town hall meetings & community conversations with Congresswoman Jackie Speier via live stream video
 - Multiple forums on immigration; empowerment and resources for local immigrants
 - Know Your Rights Workshops/training for community members

- Met with County Sheriff Department to resist ICE Raids
- CBOs issued Values Statement
- Various Cities considering “sanctuary status”
- [San Mateo County Filed Brief to Protect Immigrants](#)
- [City of Redwood Releases Statement on Immigration Policies](#)

➤ Health Care/ Safety Net:

- Two community forums hosted by Thrive Alliance for Nonprofits on national trajectory and state and local response, with committees for ongoing monitoring and engagement forming
 - ACTION GROUPS formed on: Education and Children, Environment & Sustainability, Immigration & Workers’ Rights, Basic Needs & Emergency Services

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

➤ Immigration Protections:

- [Law suit filed regarding Sanctuary status](#)
- [Filed County Injunction to Block Immigration Executive Order](#)
- [Passed a resolution supporting immigrant community](#)
- [Increasing access to legal services for immigrant community through partnership with cities](#)
 - Board approved \$3.5 million funding for legal aid services to support an estimated 180,000 undocumented immigrants in Santa Clara County
- Rapid Response Service put in place
- Working with partners to increase capacity of non-profit sector to develop system to protect data/status from ICE
- City of San Jose Reaffirmed "Sanctuary Status"
 - San Jose City leaders approved communication campaign to educate immigrant communities about their rights
- [San Jose Unified School District passed resolution supporting immigrant students and families](#)

➤ Health Care:

- County Executive committed to providing robust healthcare services if ACA is repealed
 - Use of Measure A funds to support loss of federal funding for county healthcare services
 - Advocated against the Governor’s budget proposal to shift costs of IHHS to county

➤ Safety Net:

- Enhancing 211 Services to get the word out about services
- County Executive committed Allocated additional \$14 million to general fund to provided expanded services to homeless, supplementary housing programs & supportive housing services

SOLANO COUNTY

- Immigration Protections:
 - [School districts considered a resolution to support immigrants and diversity](#)
 - Board of Supervisors is monitoring potential impact
 - Public Forums have been hosted to educate the public on immigration concerns

- Health Care/Safety Net:
 - Health Plan sent out materials to educate about rights and continued benefits
 - Working with County Association & Federal lobbyist on action with the House & Senate on ACA repeal & replacement
 - Focusing on State level solutions and funding control where they can

SONOMA COUNTY

- Immigration Protections:
 - [Board of Supervisor Resolution was passed affirming commitment to diversity & inclusion](#)
 - Collaborating with non-profit organizations to serve immigrant community as immigrants are life blood of the agricultural industry in Sonoma County
 - County Counsel is researching options and learning from neighboring counties
 - Organizations are changing their practices to address the needs and fears of undocumented residents and their families
 - City Resolutions including Cloverdale, Healdsburg, Petaluma, Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, Sonoma, Windsor
 - School District's "Safe Haven" Resolutions: Santa Rosa, Cotati-Rohnert Park, Guerneville, Healdsburg, Sonoma County Office of Education, Santa Rose Junior College, Sonoma Valley, Windsor, West County

- Health Care/Safety Net:
 - County Health and Human Services is tracking who is calling to request to be taken off services & developing responses to this trend
 - County of Sonoma announced they will be launching a capital campaign to raise 2 million dollars for service collaboration over the next 3 years.

If you know of other efforts happening in your county, please share them with us!

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