November 2025

Dear Community Members, Donors, Supporters, Partners, and Friends:

Seven years ago, the Secure Families Collaborative was established to provide *pro bono* immigration legal assistance and to increase legal capacity for Sonoma County immigrants. We started as a small County fund designed to change the lives of immigrants who work, study, live, and enhance the culture of our beautiful county.

In 2025, our county's immigrant communities face unprecedented challenges. Many find themselves in survival mode against federal policy that seeks to dehumanize and demean them. We are proud to be Sonoma Strong, as we know federal policy does not represent our shared local values. We feel lucky to live in an area that seeks to treat all residents with dignity, respect, and human rights.

If there is one thing we've been constantly reminded of over these last seven years, it's the resilience of local immigrant families. Countless obstacles are placed in their path, but still they endure. We're reminded of the words of poet Nayyirah Wahed who commended immigrants for "breaking the ocean in half to be here". We also think of lawyer and legal scholar Amy Chua who stated that "a foreign accent is a sign of bravery".

We know no one more brave, more resilient, more worthy of being celebrated, than local immigrant communities. We'd also like to thank our multiple community partners and volunteers - groups that refuse to stand idly by during oppression and racism. We celebrate them along with our donors, as none of this could be possible without you.

We still have much work to be done, and although most of you are already doing so, we invite you to join the fight with us, or continue to fight. Thank you for believing in justice, equity, and dignity. Thank you for keeping immigrant families together. Thank you for supporting the Secure Families Collaborative.

Sincerely,

The Secure Families Collaborative Team

Margaret Flores McCabe, Executive Director

Chandler Jordana, Director of Fundraising & Operations

Beth Aldridge, Administrative Support & Resource Navigator

Jessica Carmona, Resource Navigator

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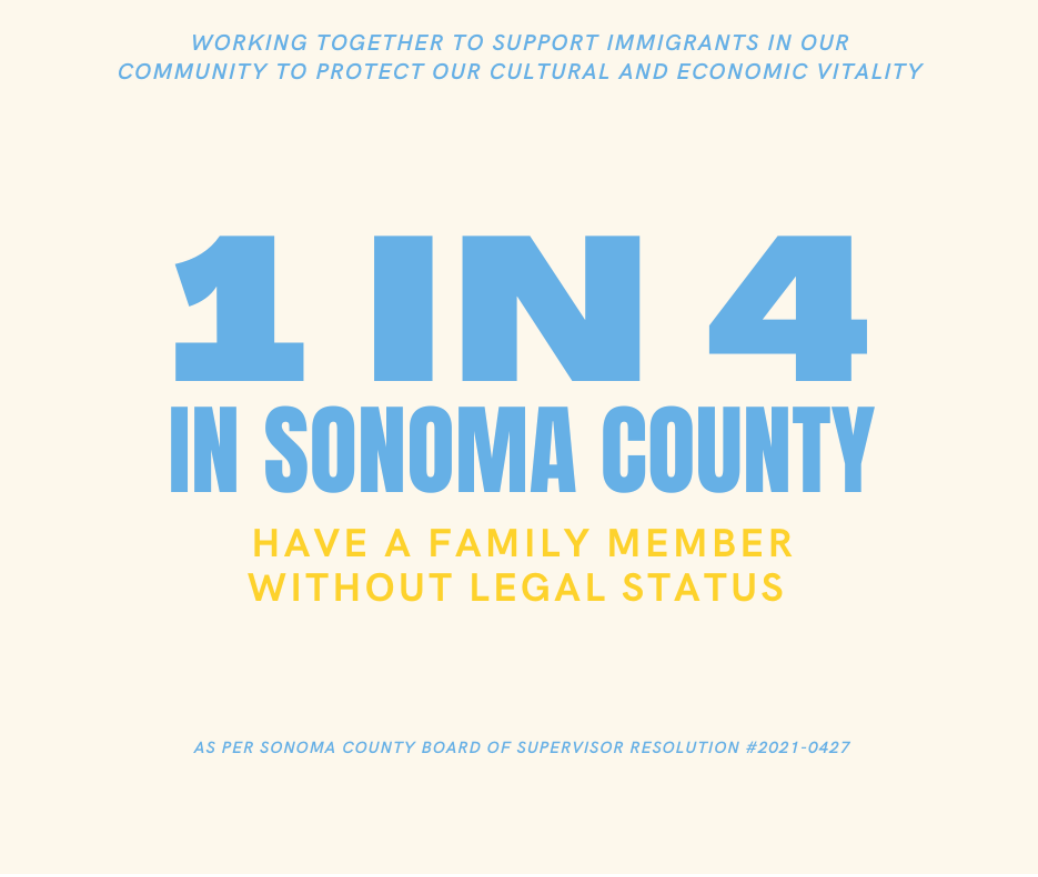
SONOMA COUNTY
SECURE FAMILIES
COLLABORATIVE

Meeting the Moment and Impacting the Future:
The Collaborative's 2025-2026 Response to Federal Immigration Shifts

Prepared by the Secure Families Collaborative - Sonoma County, California

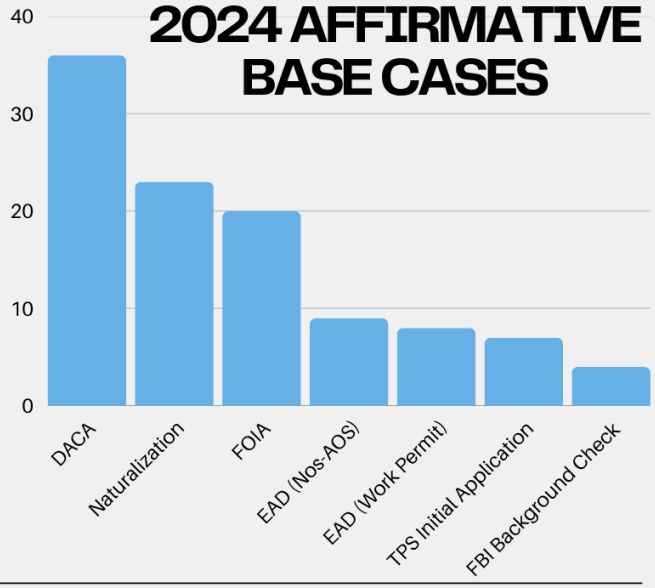
Contact: Chandler Jordana - cjordana@securefamilies.org



SECURE FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE

2024

IMPACT



40
2024 Community Outreach Events

2,912
Total Clients Served since 2018

535
Attendees at outreach events in Q4

$7M
in funding for immigrant assistance since 2018

324
Total 2024 Consultations

120
Non-Legal Resources Provided in 2024

36
DACA renewals completed in 2024

184
Total Cases in 2024

Introduction: Meeting the Moment

Federal immigration policy continues to rapidly shift, creating uncertainty and fear for immigrant communities. In Sonoma County, federal changes intersect with local challenges – housing and food insecurity, healthcare inequity, and trauma from lived experience and past enforcement actions. The Secure Families Collaborative (SFC) meets these moments with coordination, compassion, and community power building. Founded in 2017, SFC now unites **19** organizations that align legal, medical, and social-service systems to ensure that immigrant families remain safe, stable, and supported regardless of national policy shifts.

With nearly a decade of experience, Secure Families is the longest-running multi-organizational nonprofit collaborative in the County. Its decentralized structure allows it to **respond rapidly and strategically** to changing community needs, policy shifts,and crises affecting immigrant families. By centering impacted voices, SFC remains **agile**, **grounded, and effective** - ensuring immigrant rights are protected through real-time coordination among trusted partners.

To date, SFC has raised over **$7 million dollars for immigrant-serving organizations, with more than 85% of all funds going directly to programs that deliver legal and social support.** This includes sustaining critical **pro bono immigration legal services**. According to the American Immigration Council, non-detained cases cost between $7,000 and $25,000, while detained cases cost $15,000 to $25,000 **per client.** By mobilizing top-tier legal teams from partners such as the USF Law School's Immigration and Deportation Defense Clinic and Sonoma Immigrant Services, SFC helps families access high-quality representation that would otherwise be financially out of reach.

Unlike traditional, top-down philanthropy, SFC's **nimble, community-powered model** emphasizes **efficiency, equity, and measurable results** - ensuring that every dollar raised translates quickly into **direct support for immigrants under threat.** Through collaborative action and shared accountability, SFC delivers timely, life-changing outcomes that strengthen the system of support for Sonoma County's immigrant communities.

Secure Families Collaborative: An Immigrant-Serving Collaborative Hub

The Collaborative empowers immigrant communities by emphasizing four distinct but equally-important pillars, combining immigration legal expertise, resource connectivity, and sustainable support for organizations.

Pillar 1: Pro Bono Immigration Legal Services and Partnerships
Delivering high-quality pro bono immigration legal services in collaboration with expert legal teams, we have served over 3,000 clients in seven years.

Since 2018, increasing removal defense capacity for asylum seekers and long-time undocumented residents has been the Collaborative's priority. We were created to build capacity for immigration legal services for Sonoma County's immigrant communities. Although the Collaborative has since expanded to encompass four pillars, *pro bono* immigration legal services remain the core of our work and the heart of our mission.

Trusted Partners:
USF Law School Immigration and Deportation Defense Clinic (Healdsburg). SFC Legal Director Jacqueline Brown is a nationally-renowned immigration expert. Jacqueline and Secure Families Advisor Bill Ong Hing share over 70 years of combined experience. They provide timely, vetted information.

Sonoma Immigrant Services is the other primary legal partner (Santa Rosa, Windsor, and Sonoma). Their attorney teams have decades of experience and offer affirmative and removal defense services as well as education, clinics, and outreach. Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) Expert Maureen McSorley also works with Sonoma Immigrant Services and ensures unaccompanied minors receive the legal support they deserve. She has a caseload of 30 clients and assists young people under 21 who have been abandoned, abused, or neglected by a parent with a path to legal residency.

Catholic Charities (Santa Rosa) and **Queer Asylum Accompaniment** (Sebastopol) ensure that asylum seekers and immigrants alike have access to legal and vital social service support.

Pillar 2: Communication: Outreach and Volunteer Coordination
Ensuring vital information is communicated in a timely manner

- **Community Engagement:**
  Effective communication and targeted outreach strategies keep immigrant communities, nonprofits, local government, and the community informed with **accurate and timely** information; This approach ensures a coordinated and collaborative effort.

- **Volunteer Coordination:**
  Mobilizing and coordinating volunteers expands our reach and provides essential support. This ensures that community-based organizations and immigrant communities both receive the support they need.

Pillar 3: Resource Connectivity and Navigation
Prioritizing holistic immigrant health

- **Resource Navigation:**
  Our bilingual and bicultural resource navigator ensures seamless access countywide to comprehensive social services for clients receiving legal services, including health, education, and housing assistance.

Pillar 4: Pass-Through Funding, Nonprofit Capacity Building, and Fundraising Support
Emphasizing the health of the county's entire immigrant-serving ecosystem

- **Financial and Strategic Support:**
  We've distributed direct aid to partners, **over $5 million** since 2018. In this pass-through funder role, we provide administrative and capacity-building support to directly empower organizations with needed guidance.

- **Capacity Building:**
  We offer fundraising capacity building, strategy, and organizational growth training to help local organizations better serve local immigrant communities

SFC's Legal Director since 2017 - USF Law School's Jacqueline Brown, JD

Legal Leadership: Defending Families and Shaping Systems

Total Removal Defense Caseload: 130 **Waitlist:** 100

USF Law School Removal Defense & Deportation Defense Clinic (Healdsburg):

USF anchors SFC's immigration legal response network, ensuring access to counsel, guardianship planning, and coordinated defense for families at risk of separation. USF Law School's Immigration & Deportation Defense Clinic, led by Jacqueline Brown, JD, coordinates removal defense and asylum cases, provides emergency consultation clinics, and trains *pro bono* attorneys. Jacqueline also works with NBRN as the attorney of the day, co-coordinating a master calendar. She also serves clients in nearby Mendocino and Lake Counties, as there is a shortage of immigration legal services.

Sonoma Immigrant Services (Windsor, Santa Rosa, and Sonoma) :

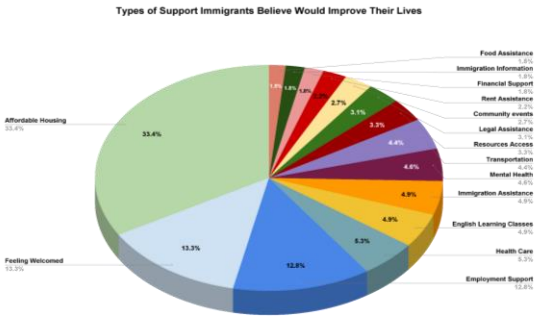
Founded in 2019, Sonoma Immigrant Services provides education, advocacy, and accredited immigration legal services to help individuals and families navigate the U.S. immigration system. They strengthen the community through service provision. Led by Vicki Handron, JD, SIS employs SFC's funded removal defense attorney, Bernice Espinoza, and SIJS attorney, Maureen McSorley, who has over 30 years of experience in immigration law (specializing in SIJS). These immigration legal services partners coordinate preparedness clinics and advise on emergency-response protocols. Together with Catholic Charities, these leaders safeguard more than 1,200 individuals each year.

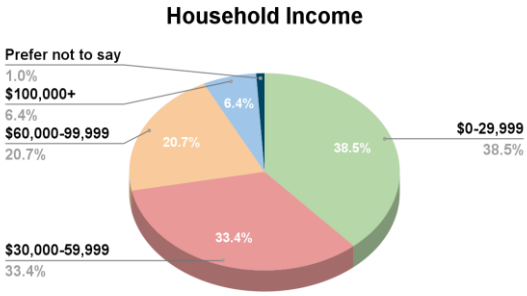
As the primary SFC attorney working at SIS, Bernice Espinoza's's impact goes far beyond case numbers. Bernice has been instrumental in developing County Know Your Rights (KYR) programs - creating training materials, training more than 50 trainers and promotoras at La Luz and La Plaza, and leading six county-wide KYR presentations and legal clinics. She is recognized statewide as an expert in Padilla matters, advising clients on the potential immigration consequences of criminal convictions and coordinating with other professionals to ensure due process. Her expertise strengthens the entire county's emergency response capacity. Her work has broad, systemic impact.

African Advocacy Network (Pass through funding partner)

The African Advocacy Network is a new Collaborative partner as of 2025. Recognizing the need for culturally-sensitive services for the County's growing African, Afro-Carribean, and Pan-African populations, the Collaborative partners with AAN to provide information and services to the African diaspora in Sonoma County. The Chairman of AAN's Board is the pastor of a Haitian church in Petaluma. Currently, 63 families in that church are in need of representation. The Collaborative is currently seeking additional funding to fill this need.

Identifying Community Needs: The LIIG Survey





In September 2024, the Board of Supervisors authorized execution of the $141,235 LIIIG grant from the California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz). This initiative launched a partnership between the Economic Development Collaborative (EDC), the County Administrator's Office (CAO), the Secure Families Collaborative (SFC), and the United Way of the Wine Country to better understand and respond to immigrant community needs through data collection, resource mapping, and targeted recommendations. The United Way of the Wine Country has been a key partner in ensuring a holistic approach to immigrant safety and health. These **data-driven recommendations** will inform our programming and partnership relationships going forward:

1. Housing Navigation & Advocacy: Dedicate funding to housing navigators and reduce wait times for affordable housing placement. Inflation and housing affordability are key concerns for immigrants surveyed, nearly 40 percent of whom make under $30,000 annually. Policy changes and solutions to address the affordability of housing would drastically improve the quality of life for Sonoma County's immigrant communities.

2. Multilingual Workforce & Navigation Expansion: Strengthen 211 and county service navigation, co-locating multilingual staff in trusted hubs. Immigrants no longer exclusively speak English or Spanish. Haitian creole, indigenous languages, and East African languages are now spoken county-wide. Accessibility issues should be addressed.

3. Legal Concerns & Rights Education: Increase capacity for comprehensive immigration legal services by providing capacity building, fundraising assistance, and programmatic support. Immigration legal services capacity is grossly insufficient as per the demonstrable need of immigrant communities. All area nonprofit service providers have considerable waitlists and are unable to hire new attorneys due to the exorbitant cost of living.

4. Belonging Initiatives / Develop a Countywide "Welcome Campaign": Expand peer support networks and bicultural community health workers / promotoras to reduce isolation. Nearly one in seven of surveyed immigrants believe feeling unwelcome to be their top, or one of their top issues. County and local immigrant-serving nonprofit organizations must address this by creating additional initiatives for immigrant well-being. We recommend launching a coordinated campaign promoting Sonoma County as a welcoming place for immigrants - reducing fear, highlighting available services, and reinforcing community belonging.

5. **Mental Health**: Connect immigrant communities to additional mental health resources. Immigrant communities have reported poor mental health. These concerns are exacerbated by not experiencing feelings of belonging and an inability to find employment that pays a living wage. These factors, coupled

with the lack of affordable housing, contribute to poor mental health in communities that are already experiencing significant trauma and mental health issues.

6. District-Level Resource Mapping: Continue developing a public-facing asset map by supervisorial district to guide future policy and funding decisions. To properly address policy changes, community feedback is vital.

7. Additional outreach within communities underrepresented in this report. This includes immigrants from the African and Asian diasporas, as well as indigenous speakers from Mexico and Central America. SFC partners like KBBF, the African Advocacy Network, and the Asian American Pacific Islander Coalition of the North Bay are assisting in this effort.

8. Continuation of the work already started to address geographic gaps in service. This must include partnerships with the County, local cities, community-based organizations, and trusted bilingual / bicultural messengers. For example, survey results confirm that there are fewer services available in rural parts of the county, such as the coastal areas of the Fifth Supervisorial District. Trusted messengers, like the promotoras / community health workers of the Bienestar Collective, could help bridge this West County gap.

9. More comprehensive collaboration and capacity-building efforts with small and medium-sized immigrant serving organizations. This collaboration could take many forms including sharing resources, cross-training employees, and convening focus groups.

10. Additional surveys: Although 1,012 surveys are significant, they are still not enough to fully represent Sonoma County immigrant communities. There are over 100,000 immigrants in Sonoma County and with recently-arrived groups from Venezuela, Haiti, Ukraine, and other countries, there is a demonstrable need to receive updated information.

Initial Pass-Through Funding Partner Convening in June 2025

Pass-Through Funding: Strengthening the Frontline

SFC directs over $500,000 annually in pass-through grants to **19** organizations, ensuring resources reach culturally rooted, trusted messengers quickly. Funds support legal clinics, promotora-led education, and resource navigation for immigrants in Sonoma County.

The Power of Pass Through Funding

With the support of the Sonoma County Administrator's Office, The Collaborative provides pass-through funding and administrative support to the following organizations. Through a competitive process, the Collaborative was chosen as the County's administrative partner because of its demonstrated commitment to fiscal responsibility and close oversight.

1. Bienestar Collective ($25,000) - Legal services navigation, KYR (Know Your Rights) Outreach, Caregiver Preparedness Plans, and Health Equity Outreach

-Partners with:

- Aliados Health
- VIDAS Legal Services (via in-kind donations)

2. **KBBF** ($25,000) - KBBF produces special programming, both live and recorded, that brings together immigrants, attorneys, nonprofits, and activists to share information about immigration law, policy, and civil rights, as well as personal stories from those most affected.

-Partners with:

- VIDAS Legal Services

3. **African Advocacy Network** ($50,000) - AAN combines their legal expertise, language capability, and cultural competency to address the dearth in legal services for African and Afro-Caribbean immigrants in Sonoma County.

-Partners with:

- Sonoma Immigrant Services

4. **The Immigrant Legal Health Collaborative**, led by Sonoma Immigrant Services ($145,000) - The ILHC, formed in November 2024, combines community health workers, promotores, mental health professionals, and community-based organizations to implement community-centered training, outreach, and legal education designed to reach immigrants where they already seek support.

-Partners with

- La Familia Sana
- Latino Service Providers
- Northern California Center for Well-Being
- Sonoma CAN

5. **Family Resource Center Collaborative**, led by La Luz Center ($160,000) - A strategic, countywide effort to expand immigrant legal education, family preparedness planning, wraparound services for separated families, and access to immigration legal support

-Partners with

- Child Parent Institute (CPI)
- Corazon Healdsburg
- Petaluma Family Resource Center
- Sonoma CAN
- Sonoma Immigrant Services
- VIDAS Legal Services

6. **Asian American Pacific Islander Coalition of the North Bay (AAPIC)** ($20,000) - AAPIC ensures that every group in the AAPI immigrant diaspora knows their rights and how to apply them. They focus on providing KYR, referrals for immigration legal services, distributing timely and current information, and helping families navigate family preparedness.

SECURE FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE

2025 IMPACT

19 Community Partners

1,200 Q1 KYR Workshop from Partners

175 Q1 Family Preparedness Plans Completed

$7M in direct assistance to community partners

3,150 Clients Served since 2018

130 Current Removal Defense Cases

30 Current SIJS Cases

907 Surveys collected from local immigrants

> "THE COLLABORATIVE HAS A DEMONSTRABLE HISTORY OF COMPETENT ADMINISTRATION OF GRANT FUNDING."

Yoan Vivas - Sonoma County Administrator's Office

Impact and Fundraising Leadership

SFC has raised over $7 million since its inception, serving more than 2,000 families annually. Families gain legal preparedness, agencies coordinate through shared protocols, and BIPOC-led nonprofits gain stable funding. SFC also aligns public and philanthropic investments to sustain a collective infrastructure that keeps immigrant families safe.

Thanks to its diversified revenue stream composed of individual donors, philanthropic support, and support from city, County, and State government, the Collaborative has experienced steady year-to-year growth, even in the face of seemingly insurmountable challenges. Since its inception, the Collaborative has faced a federal landscape that is openly hostile to immigrants, COVID-19, and supporting organizations that have lost federal funding. In spite of these challenges, SFC relies on its administrative backbone team, positive community relationships, and a proactive approach from the Board of Directors, to continue to grow and build capacity for Sonoma County's immigrant communities.

In 2026, the Collaborative looks forward to continuing to expand its efforts by joining regional groups Northern California Grantmakers and Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees (GCIR). This supports the Collaborative's transition into a direct service organization and a capacity-building organization offering secondary support to immigrant-serving community-based organizations.

Conclusion: Building the Future Together

Meeting the moment requires courage, coordination, and shared leadership. WIth cross-collaborative partners from philanthropy, local government and community-based organizations. The support from generous donors enables SFC to sustain and scale this work—transforming responsive systems into lasting infrastructure for justice and belonging. The Collaborative would like to thank its donors for making this transformational work possible.

In the face of unprecedented obstacles and unforeseen funding challenges, philanthropic funding has allowed the Collaborative to foster a Sonoma County immigrant-serving ecosystem. Combining the lived experience and knowledge of local immigrant communities with expert immigration legal services from experienced providers, the Secure Families Collaborative prioritizes immigrant safety and holistic health.