



Introduction of the Secure Families Collaborative

The Secure Families Collaborative (SFC), the longest-established nonprofit collaborative in Sonoma County, achieves collective impact to foster equity, belonging, and justice by working with our partners to provide high-quality immigration legal services and facilitate connections to culturally responsive social services. We envision a community where immigrant families are able to fully exercise their legal rights, have access to culturally responsive support systems, and live life with dignity and respect.

Our 2025 emphasis on the following four pillars is grounded in extensive community input and analysis and serves as the foundation for our new strategic plan. The Collaborative seeks to cultivate a healthy immigrant-serving ecosystem in all County supervisorial districts to ensure that immigrant communities are treated with dignity, respect, and decency.

Pillar One: Expand pro bono removal defense capabilities and related immigration legal services.

Pillar Two: Facilitate resource navigation.

Pillar Three: Furnish attorney-informed education, outreach and resources.

Pillar Four: Provide fundraising guidance and support to immigrant-serving nonprofits and community-based organizations in all County supervisorial districts.



Introduction of Collaborative-Managed County Pass-Through Funding Project

In February of this year, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors allocated \$500,000 in pass-through funding to provide support for undocumented, immigrant, and refugee residents of Sonoma County. These services focus on providing education to individuals' legal rights related to immigration status.

The Collaborative oversaw funding distribution through a panel of impartial community experts and advocates in Spring 2025 and received a 15 percent administrative fee of \$75,000. SFC was chosen based on its demonstrable capability to manage complex projects and its emphasis on collaboration among community-based organizations. For this grant project, the Collaborative emphasizes consistency of shared information (for KYR clinics and other community-facing messaging), accomplishing collective impact, and avoiding duplicative efforts and services.

Quarter One Accomplishments

Collectively, community partners have already made significant impact through the first quarter of the grant period. The following is a brief overview of these accomplishments:

- **1,447 individuals were reached at Summer 2025 (June, July, and August) Know Your Rights training sessions!**
- 187 families have completed Family Preparedness Plans.
- 80 individuals have received individualized follow-up regarding health and health equity planning.
- 75 resource guides have been distributed to individuals on health navigation and resources.
- 31 families have received social wraparound services.
- 19 warm referrals have been given to legal nonprofit partners for referrals.

Quarter One Challenges

- Community fear is tangible, both among served community and staff members of community service providers.
- Immigration policies and laws are changing so quickly that it can be difficult to maintain current documents and training materials.
- Legal capacity continues to be an issue, as many questions arise from the Know Your Rights training and there are not enough pro bono attorneys in the county.
- Organizations, especially partners who receive federal funding, are unsure how to record-keep certain events due to fear of federal repercussions or an audit.
- The Collaborative needs to provide additional training to "younger" grantees on capacity building and general nonprofit operations.



Breakdown by Partner

The Collaborative's Director of Fundraising and Operations, Chandler Jordana, maintains frequent communication with all six partners. They have check-ins on an at least monthly basis and when necessary, more frequently. This is in addition to the bi-monthly convenings that are held with partners and other immigrant-serving community-based organizations. At bi-monthly meetings, organizations share challenges, best practices, and collaborative solutions to the ever-changing landscape for immigrant-serving organizations.

Additionally, in collaboration with the North Bay Organizing Project, the Collaborative has created an internal shared calendar of events whereby organizations can support one another and inform clients of beneficial clinics, workshops, and other immigrant-serving events.

The Collaborative also capitalizes on the diversity of partner organizations and uses subject-matter experts to teach and involve all. For example, community health workers / promotoras of the Bienestar Collective share how to combat low-attendance at events. KBBF invites all service providers, both non-Latino and Latino, to amplify their reach via radio, while legal experts provide pertinent updates and best practices to all immigrant-serving organizations.

As the key legal service providers in this Collaborative, 72 percent of funding has gone to the Family Resource Center Network and the Immigrant Health Collaborative. Consequently, they're responsible for the majority of deliverables. One quarter into the grant agreement, partners have already made significant progress:

Family Resource Center Network of Sonoma County (\$160,000)

The Family Resource Center Network (FRC), led by La Luz Center, is the largest grant recipient and the largest collaborative partner by number of organizations. The FRC is composed of Corazon Healdsburg, the Child Parent Institute, the Petaluma Family Resource Center, the Community Action Partnership of Sonoma County (Sonoma CAN), Sonoma Immigrant Services,

and VIDAS Legal Services. Each pass-through partner received \$20,000 in county funding, while La Luz received \$40,000. The FRC represents a strategic, countywide effort to expand immigrant legal education, family preparedness planning, wraparound services for separated families, and access to immigration legal support.

The Family Resource Center Network is leading the way in family preparedness planning, Know Your Rights training, and other community workshops and training. In Quarter One, FRC has already collectively reached over 750 individuals with Know Your Rights training; has helped prepare family preparedness plans for 100 families; and has provided support groups, education sessions, and other training opportunities for over 300 individuals. Primary challenges for FRC thus far have revolved around summer scheduling due to their extensive work with families with school-aged children. FRC was already collaborating before the pass-through funding. This has facilitated effective working relationships among partners.

The Immigrant Health Legal Collaborative (IHLC) (\$145,000)

IHLC is made up of La Familia Sana, Latino Service Providers, Northern California Center for Well-Being, and Sonoma CAN. 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.

Thus far, the IHLC has made significant capacity-building progress and serves as a key information hub. They release internal weekly newsletters and are a key training resource for immigrant community members. They've already held a healthcare access training for one legal service provider and have scheduled four legal health education training sessions and four Know Your Rights training sessions for this autumn. Their primary challenges currently involve capacity building, as they just hired a new collaborative program manager and are a new collaborative.

The African Advocacy Network (AAN) (\$50,000)

AAN combines their legal expertise, language capability, and cultural competency to address the lack of legal services for African and Afro-Caribbean immigrants in Sonoma County. Funding to the African Advocacy network represents a landmark achievement for the Collaborative, as it represents an intentional effort to provide services for the large Haitian community and other groups of the African diaspora.

AAN has encountered challenges trying to build capacity and make in-roads into Sonoma County, as they've historically provided services in the San Francisco Bay Area. For example, they are scheduled to have a legal clinic in September, but registrations have been low. This is an issue that we're collaboratively addressing, and the clinic is likely to be rescheduled for October. They will reach over 200 black immigrants and will make at least 50 referrals to local legal service providers.

The Bilingual Broadcasting Foundation (KBBF) (\$25,000)

KBBF creates a strong, multilingual voice that empowers and engages the community, striving for social justice through education, celebrating culture, and covering local and international news. For this project, KBBF is bringing 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.

KBBF is currently on pace to meet all deliverables. They've provided 18 segments that provide updates on immigration law; 24 segments of news reports and updates including interviews with experts; they also routinely advertise available immigration resources and referral information. KBBF's current challenge is integrating non-Latino communities into their programming. Historically, immigrant and BIPOC services on the radio and in the county have focused on Latino communities. This funding is aiming to change that and break cultural and linguistic barriers.

Bienestar Collective (Bienestar) (\$25,000)

Bienestar Collective is the fiscal sponsor working with Dinastía de Promotoras del Rio Ruso, a group of Latina community health workers providing Know Your Rights training and family preparedness plans to immigrants in West County. They also facilitate legal services navigation and health equity outreach.

Bienestar has thus far had unprecedented success. They have helped prepare 57 family preparedness plans and provided Know Your Rights training to over 150 immigrants in West County. Due to the fear of holding events in public spaces, the promotoras have graciously used private homes and other community spaces to reach individuals. Utilizing their position of trust as community members and advocates, they've been particularly effective. Their primary obstacle as an infant organization is their infrastructure. The Collaborative has been working closely with them, donating office space and capacity-building expertise. They have already shown an ability to maximize resources with a relatively small funding amount.

AAPIC North Bay (AAPIC) (\$20,000)

The Asian American Pacific Islander Coalition of the North Bay (AAPIC) celebrates culture, empowers the community, and promotes positive changes for AAPI communities in the North Bay. For this project, AAPIC is ensuring that every group in the AAPI immigrant diaspora will know of their rights and what to do if challenged. They will focus on providing KYR, referrals for immigration legal services, distributing timely and up-to-date information, and helping families navigate family preparedness plans.

Initially a subgrantee of the FRC Network, after consulting with La Luz and Secure Families Collaborative, it was determined that AAPIC could be more effective as a separate grantee. AAPIC signed the working agreement in August, and has already had 173 attendees at Know Your Rights events in just two months. These events were held at a Cambodian temple, with the Downtown Association of Petaluma, and at a community location in collaboration with Filipino and Japanese communities. The AAPIC started a bit later than other grantees due to the initial

restructure. However, they have quickly caught up with their peers and look to maximize impact with a relatively small amount of funding, similarly to Bienestar.

Conclusion and Case for Continued Support

The Collaborative looks forward to continuing to work with the County and other community-based organizations to foster a collaborative immigrant-serving ecosystem in Sonoma County. We continue to build capacity and programmatic integration to plan for potential adverse activity towards immigrant communities from the federal government such as increased ICE presence, increased detention of non-citizen residents, and other attacks against the immigrant community.

We recognize that this support is more critical now than ever, as the Supreme Court rules in favor of racial profiling and other traditional protections such as due process are under attack. The immigrant community makes up approximately 1/3 of our county, and we appreciate the opportunity and to continue to fend off these unwarranted attacks and protect immigrants' dignity, power, and human rights.

If you need any additional information or have any questions, comments, or concerns, please reach out at any time to the Collaborative's Director of Fundraising and Operations, Chandler Jordana at cjordana@securefamilies.org.

