

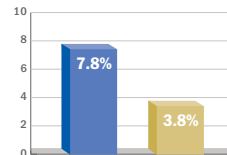
Engaging Immigrants in the Silicon Valley



Knowing Your Community

MORE THAN 1/3 of the residents of San Mateo and Santa Clara counties are immigrants, and almost two thirds of those younger than 18 are children of immigrants.¹


Nearly half of the workforce IS FOREIGN-BORN.²



2X more live in poverty
Yet, more than twice as many immigrant and refugee families in Silicon Valley live in poverty³ (7.8 %) as compared to the general population (3.8 %).

Working with Local Governments to Make a Difference

ILG's decade long support for immigrant integration in the Silicon Valley has helped create nationally replicated models of local government engagement, bridged relationships between local governments and non-profits as well as facilitated partnerships between the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and local governments.



ILG developed three cohorts to encourage peer-to-peer learning between local government officials and staff throughout the region. These groups gained a greater understanding about implicit bias, working with ethnic media and providing bilingual support to the community.



Through these cohorts, trainings, coaching and regional convenings, ILG connected with

26 jurisdictions and 27 non-profit organizations



Provided technical assistance, coaching, and TIERS public engagement training to local government staff and electeds in 21 jurisdictions, home to

75 percent of the population of the region

Mountain View: ILG provided technical assistance including planning and design support for Mountain View's Spanish Civic Academy.

Redwood City: ILG partnered with Welcoming America and local officials to launch the first two immigrant welcoming affiliates in California: "Redwood City Together" and "You-Me-We=Oakley."

Santa Clara County: ILG provided guidance and hands on support to the County of Santa Clara's Office of Immigrant Relations in developing a three-year strategic plan to promote full inclusion of immigrant communities in the county.

Local governments across the region continue to partner with community organizations to:

Organize **Know Your Rights** workshops to communicate the message the US Constitution provides certain rights for everyone, regardless of immigration status, race, religion or country of origin.

Establish **Collaborative Rapid Response 24/7 Hotlines** to report Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity or seek immediate support if ICE comes to homes, workplaces or neighborhoods.

Emerging Issues of Concern

The Federal Public Charge Law

Public Charge is a term used by U.S. immigration officials to refer to a person considered primarily dependent on the government for subsistence, (public cash assistance, long-term institutionalization at government expense). An immigrant who is found to be “likely...to become a public charge” may be denied admission to the U.S. or lawful permanent resident (green card holder) status. As a result, local officials and staff are concerned community members eligible for public benefits may not access services out of fear or intimidation. The Federal Government has not yet clarified who is and who is not subject to the Public Charge Law.

Census 2020

Census 2020 data will be used to guide funding from 2021-2030. An accurate 2020 Census is essential for local communities to have the resources and representation that is their right. The U.S. Department of Commerce’s decision to add a citizenship status question to the 2020 Census has prompted widespread concern from state and local officials. At a time of heightened fears in immigrant communities, the inclusion of the question will discourage participation, altering the accuracy of Census counts. You can access tips to help reach a complete count here: www.ca-ilg.org/2020census.

Hard to Count in the Silicon Valley

Based on the latest census estimates, **approximately 14% of the region’s current population (or 377,533 people) lives in hard-to-count neighborhoods.** Without higher self-response, more households in these and other neighborhoods are at risk of being missed in the 2020 census. In 2020, for the first time the Census Bureau will be urging most households to submit their census responses online via the Internet. Even though the Silicon Valley is recognized as one of the most technologically advanced regions in the nation, **9.2% of households** had either no internet subscriptions or dial up-only access.

California State Legislation

SB 54 – State and local law enforcement agencies and school police and security departments cannot engage in immigration enforcement except in narrow circumstances. California schools, health facilities, libraries, courthouses, and the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement will remain safe and accessible to all California residents, regardless of immigration status.

AB 2792 – City Councils and Board of Supervisors in California are required to hold at least one community forum per year if the Police or Sheriff’s department allowed Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to access at least one individual in their custody in the previous year.

AB 291 – Protects immigrant tenants from deportation threats by declaring that immigration/citizenship status of any person is irrelevant to tenants’ rights, and prohibiting inquiry into a person’s immigration/citizenship status in a civil action initiated to enforce those laws unless exceptions apply.

AB 299 – Clarifies existing law preventing a landlord from taking any action based on the immigration/citizenship status of a tenant, prospective tenant, occupant, etc. unless complying with “federal law” meaning a federal government program pertaining to housing.

SB 223 – Provides for health care language access, such as requiring that notices be available in the top 15 languages spoken by individuals with limited English language proficiency in California, and establishes a minimum qualification criteria for interpreters providing interpretation services to enrollees and insureds.

AB 918 – Strengthens language access for voters with limited English language proficiency.

Resources

California Immigrant Guide:

www.immigrantguide.ca.gov

Ready California:

<https://ready-california.org>

Hard to Count 2020:

www.censushardtocountmaps2020.us

Local Governments and Immigrant Engagement:

www.ca-ilg.org/immigrant-engagement