



Building the Voice, Capacity & Power of East Bay Immigrant Communities

The East Bay has long been at the forefront of historical social change movements, pushing our region and nation to think critically about achieving “justice for all.” In response to recent federal executive orders, reversing decades of progress on issues of health care, immigrants’ rights, economic justice, climate protections and indigenous rights, there is an urgent need to build the capacity, leadership and power of those targeted for discrimination, surveillance, deportation, and hate crimes. At this moment in our history, the East Bay community has another unique role to play. In collaboration with our many partners, The East Bay Community Foundation is working to catalyze new and existing local efforts to realize a Just East Bay, where all members of our community are treated fairly, resulting in equitable opportunity and outcomes. In response, EBCF has launched the “**Building East Bay Immigrant Power Fund**,” an investment vehicle that leverages the generosity of our donors and institutional partners to strengthen grassroots organizations serving immigrant communities through policy advocacy and civic engagement.

Overview

The long-term goal of the “**Building East Bay Immigrant Power Fund**” is to build the collective voice and agency of the immigrant community as part of EBCF’s social justice and policy advocacy efforts. However in the immediate term, the objective is to administer much needed financial support to organizations and community leaders who are actively providing a range of legal, health and social services to the most vulnerable of East Bay immigrant communities. These organizations and the communities they serve find themselves fearful and concerned as new directives foment a systematic and coordinated series of actions to isolate, intimidate, and deport broad classes of immigrants.

In the East Bay, immigrants are our coworkers, students, partners, teachers, and a key driver of our local economy. By building the civic engagement, capacity and power of our most vulnerable communities, we advance and protect the rights and opportunities for the entire East Bay community.



THE EAST BAY IS:

- Home to more than **110 languages** from the world over
- Widely recognized as **one of the most ethnically diverse regions** in the country
- An **incubator for social movements** from free speech to anti-war to environmental activism
- A growing **center of venture capital** and technology industry growth
- Experiencing **record increases in poverty, hate crimes and racist graffiti** targeted at immigrants, African Americans, Muslims and LGBTQ



*“If they come for me in the morning,
they will come for you in the night.”*

— Angela Y. Davis

Background

By any measure, the current administration’s strategy has demonstrated little to no empathy or legal justification for the increase in attacks on certain communities. In upholding a freeze on Executive Order 13769, issued on January 27, 2017, the United States Court of Appeals of the Ninth Circuit ruled that “the government has pointed to no evidence that any alien from any of the countries named in the order has perpetrated a terrorist attack in the United States.”

Here in the East Bay, diversity is a value and is reflected in the composition of the regional population. Specifically, in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, immigrant communities represent 28.3% of the population, with approximately 8.1% estimated to be undocumented. Within the larger SF Bay Area, Alameda and Contra Costa counties are also home to significant Arab populations.

	TOTAL COUNTY POPULATION	FOREIGN BORN	UNDOCUMENTED	
Alameda County	1,475,000	31.10%	124,000	8.4%
Contra Costa County	1,029,000	23.8%	79,000	7.7%

Sources: Public Policy Institute of California. Unauthorized Immigrants in California, 2011; Association of Bay Area Governments, San Francisco Bay Area State of the Region (2015)

As the community foundation of the East Bay, EBCF stands with the cities of Oakland, Berkeley, Alameda, Emeryville, San Pablo, El Cerrito, Richmond, Martinez, San Leandro and Fremont - and the local philanthropic community -- in committing to making the East Bay a region where all are welcomed, regardless of race, religion or immigrant status.



About EBCF

The East Bay Community Foundation mobilizes financial assets and community leadership to transform the lives of people in the East Bay with pressing needs. This means bringing together the financial resources and leadership capabilities of the Foundation’s charitable-fund holders with those of government, business, private foundations, and non-profit service providers in coordinated, grantmaking efforts to positively affect change. Since our founding in 1928, over 430 funds and endowments have been established at EBCF. In 2016, in partnership with our donors, EBCF granted more than \$84 million to nonprofit organizations and has charitable assets under management of nearly \$350 million. For more information, please visit www.ebcf.org

NEEDS ON THE GROUND:

- **Legal Services.** In California, 68% of detained immigrants are not represented by legal counsel, even though detained immigrants who have lawyers succeed more than five times as often in challenging their deportation.
- **Community Teach-Ins & Basic Services.** Fear, confusion and anxiety is running high in all immigrant communities, Arab and Muslim communities. Community members have asked for community meetings and teach-ins, connected to services such as mental health services, translation services, etc.
- **Civic Engagement & Policy Advocacy.** At this moment in time, the need for immigrant, Arab and Muslim voices to play leading roles - in collaboration with other community-based groups - to preserve civil and human rights is essential.

CONTACT

For more information, contact
Alexandra Aquino-Fike, VP,
Development at (510) 208-0833 or via
e-mail at aaquinofike@eastbaycf.org