

24 WAYS TO SUPPORT HEALTHY IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES

Immigrants can strengthen our communities, our economy and our shared future. At a time when many immigrants and their families face uncertainty and danger, each of us has can help create welcoming, safe and opportunity-filled communities. Below are 24 ways you can take action.

ADVOCATE

1. Contact your elected officials.

Call or email local, state and federal representatives and urge them to support rational and humane immigration policies & protections for immigrant families.

2. Support policies that provide pathways to citizenship.

3. Attend community forums and town halls.

Ask questions and ensure immigrant voices and needs are represented in local discussion.

4. Stand against misinformation.

Speak up when you hear incorrect information or harmful statements about immigrants.

5. Encourage schools, libraries and community institutions to remain safe & inclusive spaces.

Pay attention to decisions and policies at these organizations and advocate for change when necessary.

6. Advocate for language access (translation, interpretation, ESL, etc.)

7. Advocate locally for immigrant-serving nonprofits.

Encourage civic leaders and funders to support organizations that provide services to immigrant communities.

SUPPORT FINANCIALLY

8. Donate to trusted immigrant-serving nonprofits.

9. Fund scholarships for immigrant students.

10. Contribute to emergency funds that can be accessed by immigrant families in need.

11. Support immigrant-owned businesses.

12. Encourage your company/business to sponsor immigrant programs.

13. Include immigrant organizations in your annual charitable giving.

VOLUNTEER

14. Volunteer with organizations serving immigrants.

15. Help immigrants with language learning.

16. Serve as a professional resource.

Lawyers, accountants, educators can provide valuable pro bono services.



Community Conversations for Democracy

17. Participate in an Accompaniment Program.

Accompany immigrants to appointments and court appearances. Even if you don't speak their language, having a person accompany them can help immigrants navigate the system and feel safer.

18. Participate in a Rapid Response Program or create a neighborhood alert program.

Rapid response programs vary; some assist immigrant communities by documenting immigrant enforcement activity, others offer aid to threatened individuals and their families.

19. Help families prepare for citizenship interviews.

Help clients practice interviews, prepare for the citizenship test.

BECOME A CHAMPION

20. Share factual information on social media

Learn the facts, know your rights and share information.

21. Find and amplify stories of success.

Celebrate immigrants who are teachers, business owners, healthcare workers or otherwise making a notable contribution to the community.

22. Get to know an immigrant story.

Take time to listen to the journey and experiences of someone who immigrated to the United States.

23. Invite a new family in your neighborhood or community over for dinner.

24. Encourage others to get involved.

Talk with friends, colleagues, and family members about ways they can support immigrant communities.

Some Organizations to Know

Kitsap Immigrant Assistance Center (KIAC), <https://kitsapaic.org>

KIAC offers a variety of services, including assistance navigating government processes and forms, food and financial aid, English learning, and a youth empowerment program.

Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network (WAISN), <https://waisn.org>

WAISN manages the state's largest Rapid Response network and offers know-your-rights training, an accompaniment program and a bail bond program.

Jewish Coalition for Immigrant Justice NW (JCIJ), <https://jewishcoalition.org>

JCIC offers an accompaniment program and an outreach program for groups seeking to learn about immigration issues.

Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP), <https://nwirp.org>

NWIRP offers legal representation, including pro bono representation, for immigration issues.

NB: These are brief overviews; refer to the organizations themselves for a complete picture.



<https://nkindivisible.com/conversations/immigration/>