

Dear Applicant,

In October of 2017 the Social Justice Fund for Ventura County met with many of its past grantees to hear about the work they're doing and what we can do better. Across the board, all of our partners expressed an interest in tackling, or had already begun working on, issues faced by our local immigrant population.

On February 17, 2018 we organized and facilitated a conversation between local policy makers, experts, educators, entrepreneurs, lawyers, stakeholders, activists, and interested members of the public. Featuring keynote addresses from Congresswoman Julia Brownley (CA-26) and California Lutheran University's Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Jessica Lavariega-Monforti, *Immigration: Challenges and Strategies in Ventura County* was a resounding success.

Our panelists included Ellen Brokaw, an avocado farmer and Founding Chair of House Farm Workers, who painted a portrait of our farmworkers and the lack of affordable **housing** for undocumented immigrants. Next, Alicia Flores, Executive Director of La Hermandad, addressed the pernicious effects that **instability and uncertainty** can have on mixed-status families. Local immigration attorney Vanessa Frank spoke to the urgent need for increased access to **legal defense** among immigrants who too often are without "**know your rights**" **resources** and receive an unfair shake by law enforcement. Matthew Ward, VP of Enrollment Management and Marketing at CLU, commented on the culture shift towards **inclusion** and empathy for DREAMERS in higher **education** at institutions like CLU and the California State Universities. And lastly, Lucas Zucker, the Policy and Communications Director of CAUSE, encouraged our audience to find local opportunities for **political engagement and activism**.

From this event, as well as from many follow-up conversations, we've decided to fund projects that address inequities and misinformation through education and information. From "know your rights" trainings, to cultivating youth leadership and legal defense, the Social Justice Fund is committed to working with local community organizations as well as brokering partnerships between groups.

The second component of that October 2017 meeting was what we, the Social Justice Fund, can do better. We recognize the difficulty in creating an entirely new project, with a limited budget, for one grant maker. There's no need to create an entirely new proposal for us; let us know what you might be working on already!

You can find additional information and specifics about the application process on the following page. Please email us your Letter of Interest by April 20, 2018. Good luck and thank you for your commitment to serving social justice in our area.

Respectfully,

Betty Stapleford and Michael Teasdale  
Co-Chairs of the Social Justice Fund for Ventura County

The Social Justice Fund for Ventura County  
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**GRANT MONEY AVAILABLE FROM  
THE SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND FOR VENTURA COUNTY  
FOR PROJECTS BUILDING IMMIGRANT EMPOWERMENT**

**The Social Justice Fund Supports**

1. Grassroots community organizing, engaging local agents of change in Ventura County
2. Projects that mobilize communities to create lasting positive change
3. Activities that develop new youth leaders and encourage participants to learn new skills
4. Projects that develop networks, inspire collaboration and community problem solving

**The Focus of Our 2018 Grants: Immigrant Empowerment**

Government policies have put immigrants, particularly the undocumented, in danger. The tone and rhetoric that this administration has employed towards immigrants, coupled with changes to enforcement policies, have bred fear among students, farmworkers, teachers, mixed-status families, and many others. Some of the greatest uncertainties among the affected communities concern their rights, knowledge and access to potential support organizations, and responses to the environment of increased enforcement.

The Social Justice Fund of Ventura County wants to fund projects that provide education and information to affected communities and individuals in Ventura County. These projects should empower the target group to

1. Better understand their situation
2. Take action to ensure they can pursue their dreams and goals
3. Become agents of change

This support can take many forms, including, but not limited to, trainings and workshops, offering legal counsel, or mobilizing support for individuals targeted for detention and deportation.

## **How to Apply for a Grant**

*Submit a Letter of Interest (LOI). The following numbered questions will help you explain your project. As you plan your responses, indicate how your work will meet the above four goals the Social Justice Fund supports as well as the focus of the grant. Highlight the details in your answers.*

*Please limit your entire letter of interest to a maximum of (2) pages. Use a 12 point font or larger and make margins 0.5 inches minimum. Email your response to Social Justice Fund for Ventura County at [socialjusticefundvc@gmail.com](mailto:socialjusticefundvc@gmail.com) by April 20, 2018.*

### **Contents of the Letter Of Interest for Your Immigrant Empowerment Project:**

1. Briefly describe the organization you represent, including why its contributions are unique. What is your role in the group?
2. How do recent changes in immigration policies affect your community? What is the specific problem you are addressing? (For example: lack of knowledge of individual rights, how mixed-status families cope with uncertainty, legal counsel to individuals targeted for deportation, etc.)
3. If your project is successful what will change? What goals do you have?
4. List some major actions you plan to take. Explain how they are tied to your goal(s).
5. How much financial support are you seeking from the Social Justice Fund?
6. Please include the name, address, phone number and email address of the person to contact from your organization

### **Immigrant Empowerment 2018 Grantmaking Calendar**

**April 20<sup>th</sup>** – Deadline for submitting Letters of Interest

**May 18<sup>th</sup>** – Announcement of short-listed candidates (those who will receive grant upon submission of a more specific action plan)

**June 8<sup>st</sup>** – Deadline for submitting specific Action Proposals

**June 22<sup>th</sup>** – Announcement of the grants and fundraiser

**Fall 2018** – Projects begin