



SLO County UndocuSupport
April 6, 2021
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SLO County UndocuSupport Announces Grant Recipients
Providing \$100,000 in aid to undocumented and mixed-status residents throughout SLO County

SLO County UndocuSupport recently announced a call for grant proposals from local organizations throughout the Central Coast, with the goal of assisting undocumented and mixed-status residents who haven't been eligible for Federal or state COVID-19 assistance.

\$100,000 in funds will be granted to five local organizations serving undocumented and mixed-status residents throughout SLO County. The funds that are being distributed were donated by local individuals, public agencies and foundations to the newly created SLO County UndocuSupport Fund at The Community Foundation San Luis Obispo County.

Criteria for the grant included the following: experience working with immigrant families in San Luis Obispo County, ability to distribute funds directly to immigrant families who have been impacted by COVID-19, ability to track and report basic client and financial data, willingness to collaborate and coordinate their activities to enhance efficiency in distribution of resources, and to safeguard resources and avoid duplication of services to families.

It is estimated that 9,000 undocumented residents live and work in San Luis Obispo County, many in agriculture and service positions. Undocumented and mixed-status residents have been left out of federal relief programs since the pandemic began in early 2020. Had these residents received federal aid it would have injected over \$12 million into the local economy.

A number of organizations on the Central Coast help address the needs of our undocumented and mixed-status residents in SLO County. Grants are being awarded to Affordable Housing Paso Robles, 5 Cities Homeless Coalition, Central Coast Coalition for Undocumented Student Success, the Center for Family Strengthening and the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Monterey. The organizations will distribute the funds to local residents and families in need through their existing programs.

“These funds will be provided to the most vulnerable in our immigrant community,” says of Jeraline Singh Edwards of Catholic Charities. “These funds will be helping folks in your community like field workers, hospitality workers, and other essential workers who have been laid off or have reduced hours due to COVID19.”

“During this past year the 5Cities Homeless Coalition has been especially concerned about populations that are ‘falling through the cracks’ for COVID-19 relief programs or who may not have the knowledge, skills, or resources to access assistance,” said Janna Nichols, Executive Director. “Funds from the SLO County UndocuSupport Fund will support our efforts to prevent homelessness among immigrant families who have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19. 5CHC has become a go-to resource and a trusted messenger within this community and this past year we’ve seen a drastic increase in the need for assistance among undocumented households. We’re grateful for the work and advocacy of the SLO County UndocuSupport collaborative and look forward to supporting their efforts and serving the immigrant families that are a vital part of our community.”

Supporting Our Essential Workers

In 2020, SLO County UndocuSupport distributed funds to over 600 local families totaling more than 2,000 persons in 17 communities throughout SLO County for rental assistance and utility payments, transportation, groceries and health needs. Still, our undocumented neighbors remain underserved when it comes to relief aid. Funds to SLO County UndocuSupport have been received from a range of individuals, community organizations, local agencies and foundations.

Speaking about SLO County UndocuSupport, SLO County Supervisor Bruce Gibson says; *“I’m so grateful to those who organized UndocuSupport and to those who have contributed to it. These funds provide crucial assistance to especially vulnerable families and children in a time of great hardship. I’m proud to see our community’s strong support for our undocumented residents.”*

How you can help

The SLO County UndocuSupport collaborative will continue to work to support immigrant and mixed-status residents in SLO County through the pandemic and beyond. They ask that anyone in the community in a financial position to give, to consider donating to these efforts through the SLO UndocuSupport website at sloundocupport.org to our fund at the Community Foundation.

Some neighbors have already pledged to donate their stimulus checks, as some of our undocumented neighbors, many paying taxes, were once again left out from the American Rescue Plan. Every little bit helps.

Families and agencies can apply for assistance after April 15, 2021 with any of the agencies below. These agencies will be collaborating on assistance to ensure there is no overlapping in service and as many SLO County residents are served as possible.

5 Cities Homeless Coalition

Phone: (805) 574-1638 – English and Spanish. Indigenous languages translators by appointment

Email: info@5chc.org

Website: <https://5chc.org/contact>

Affordable Housing Paso Robles

Email: Betian Webb bwebb@pasoroblesHA.org

Catholic Charities

Phone: (805) 541-9110

Phone calls only, no walk-ins

Center for Family Strengthening

Phone: (805) 543-6216

Website [North County NeighborAid Make a Request Portal](#)

Central Coast Coalition for Undocumented Student Success:

Phone: (805) 628-2283

Email: ccc.undocu@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.ccc-uss.org/financial-assistance.html>

Community Action Partnership for San Luis Obispo County (CAPSLO)

Phone: 805-544-4355, ext. 245

Email: Mayra Vazquez mvazquez@capslo.org

About SLO County UndocuSupport:

SLO County UndocuSupport is a collaboration of local organizations, community leaders, and advocates who came together at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic with a common goal to provide financial support for local immigrant families, including undocumented and mixed status immigrant families who were left out of federal pandemic relief programs.

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