



Community Action Board
of Santa Cruz County, Inc.

Policy Statement
Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc.
IMMIGRATION, RACIAL EQUITY & HUMAN RIGHTS

Immigration has always been a part of the human experience and a human right. CAB recognizes that we are operating on indigenous land. We honor the people who came before us and thank them for the care they gave the land and each other. All those who are not Indigenous are Immigrants to the United States either through voluntary migration or forced diaspora.

The United States is fortunate to have become the home of millions of immigrants from all over the world. The many layers of richness that define the wealth of the United States have been formed by a multitude of immigrant populations. They create community, jobs and new businesses. They spend and invest, pay taxes, and raise productivity. They bring with them important and diverse values and cultural experiences that enrich society. Yet society fails to support immigrant communities by not having a humane path to citizenship, by continuing to promote negative images of immigrants at a national level and by blaming them for the complex social and economic problems we face.

It is important to recognize the racist foundations on which the political, legal, and economic institutions of the United States are built. This country was built through centuries of enslavement of Africans and the intentional genocide of the indigenous people. Unfortunately, our present federal administration has chosen to craft its immigration policies as a continuation of the worst parts of America's history.

Successful inclusion depends upon the cultural humility, wisdom and receptivity of policy-makers; and the willingness of community members to stand for racial equity, promote diversity, and assist new immigrants in their transition. Our efforts to contribute to this process should be guided by the principle that all people deserve equal protection, and equal access to health care, employment, education, and legal assistance and basic needs such as food and shelter. Providing these essential services constitutes a wise investment in our country's well-being and socio-economic future.

We face a historical opportunity and moral responsibility to address the continued existence and long term effects of racial inequity and systemic racism in ourselves, our organizations, institutions and communities. It is our goal to support immigrant communities so that individuals and families feel welcome, have rights, have access to resources, and can contribute and thrive in our community.

WE THEREFORE AFFIRM THE FOLLOWING:

- ❖ CAB recognizes the contribution of immigrants and refugees to our country and advocates for their human and constitutional rights. We oppose those voices that fan the fear and hatred of immigrants, and invite dialogue in order to address biases, gaps and barriers.

- ❖ CAB supports effective networking among federal, state and local governments, along with community-based organizations, to assist communities in delivering needed services to immigrants.
- ❖ CAB stands for racial equity. We are committed to be a part of a larger community conversation and work in partnership with public and private interests to undo racist ideologies in our community.
- ❖ CAB supports the development of national and international policies that address the underlying causes for global migration, and seek solutions to those conditions in countries experiencing massive out-migration of its populations.
- ❖ DACA: CAB supports the rights of persons brought to the U.S. as children to pursue higher education, the career of their choice, and a future in this country. It urges all federal elected officials and policymakers not only to continue the DACA program, but to pass legislation that provides a pathway to citizenship for these young people.
- ❖ TPS: CAB believes that immigrants from countries designated under the Temporary Protected Status program (TPS) who have lived and worked in this country, and have established families and strong ties in our communities over many years, should have an opportunity to reside here permanently and pursue U.S. citizenship. CAB opposes the U.S. administration's effort to terminate TPS for these community members, and urges Congress to find a legislative solution.
- ❖ CAB opposes the trends, visible especially since September 11, 2001, toward the criminalization of immigrants and the militarization of immigration law enforcement.
- ❖ CAB also opposes the trends visible since the running and election of Donald Trump in 2016, toward immigrants of non European descent.
- ❖ CAB opposes the indiscriminate seizure for deportation of undocumented individuals. We support sanctuary policies that welcome, honor, and respect the contributions of all residents, regardless of their immigration status, and public policy measures that allow pathways to legal residency and citizenship.