



# BAY AREA UNDOCUMENTED CASH RELIEF NETWORK

*June 1, 2020*

\*Disclaimer: information presented is point in time, landscape is continuously evolving. This document presents one part of a longer piece to be released in June 2020 that will include a toolkit to support organizations operating, or interested in starting, a cash relief fund for undocumented people.

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Part One: Landscape</b>	<b>4</b>
> <b>Relief Funds in the Bay Area</b>	<b>6</b>
> <b>Gaps</b>	<b>19</b>
> <b>Lessons Learned</b>	<b>20</b>
> <b>Funder Best Practices</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Part Two: Tool Kit</b>	
Forthcoming mid-June 2020	

# INTRODUCTION

There are half a million undocumented immigrants living in the nine-county Bay Area, which is nearly 8% of the total population.

<i>County</i>	<i>Total Undocumented Immigrants</i>	<i>Total Population</i>	<i>Percent of Population</i>
Alameda	129,500	1,584,983	8.2%
Contra Costa	77,500	1,096,068	7.1%
Marin	17,500	258,349	6.8%
Napa	15,500	140,295	11.0%
San Francisco	35,000	840,763	4.2%
San Mateo	59,500	748,731	7.9%
Santa Clara	183,500	1,868,149	9.8%
Solano	24,000	425,753	5.6%
Sonoma	38,500	495,078	7.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>580,500</b>	<b>7,458,169</b>	<b>7.8%</b>

Source: Public Policy Institute of California 2017, based on 2013 American Community Survey data

Undocumented Californians are our neighbors. They contribute to the fabric of our community, fuel the economy and pay taxes; yet they are not eligible for federal relief or state safety net programs, specifically the Federal CARES Act and Unemployment Insurance. They are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 because they are concentrated in low-wage jobs, where they are more vulnerable to contracting the virus, less likely to have health coverage *and* more susceptible to suffering economic hardship due to job loss and reduced hours and wages.

In response, government and philanthropy are mobilizing to support cash relief funds for undocumented Californians. Governor Gavin Newsom launched a \$75 million [state-financed immigrant relief fund](#) to distribute \$500 payments to 150,000 undocumented adults across the state. This is administered by [twelve organizations](#) identified by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), including California Human Development in Napa, Solano and Sonoma counties and Catholic Charities affiliates in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara. This is complemented by an additional \$50 million [California Immigrant Resilience Fund](#) (CIRF) spearheaded by [Grantmakers Concerned with Refugees and Immigrants](#) (GCIR), which is directing money to community-based groups not funded by state dollars. Many philanthropic organizations and donors are also supporting undocumented relief funds.

[ReWork the Bay](#), in partnership with the [San Francisco Foundation](#) and The Grove Foundation, is leading a collaborative nine-county effort to help establish the necessary infrastructure to ensure undocumented workers and their families in our region can safely

and efficiently access cash relief in times of crisis such as the current COVID-19 pandemic, while also laying the groundwork for future disasters that disproportionately impact undocumented residents.

This project maps existing and emerging efforts across the region, with four inter-related goals:

- (1) Identify and fill gaps
- (2) Streamline information and coordinate efforts
- (3) Increase the capacity of groups to meet the demand
- (4) Elevate advocacy and collective action toward long-term reform

Although immediate cash relief is the focal point of this project, the disproportionate public health and economic impacts of COVID-19 expose the inadequacy of our safety net and the need for economic and social reform. ReWork the Bay, the San Francisco Foundation and several of the groups identified in this landscape are also supporting efforts to build worker power, protect and advance immigrant rights, and achieve economic and social justice through policy change. As noted by [Inside Philanthropy](#) about the importance of the long game:

*“In terms of funding for immigrants, one thing to keep an eye on is whether these shifts—direct payments, loosened restrictions, public-private partnerships—are just temporary relief, a blip in time, or whether they’re part of a deeper movement toward trust. Trust between grantmaker and grantee, yes, but also the trust that newcomers to this country mean something more than the economic value they generate or consume.”*

This document provides information for funders and community-based organizations (CBOs), including advocates, organizers and service providers.

- **Part One: Landscape** is geared toward funders, mapping existing funds and offering best practices for supporting financial assistance for immigrants; and
- **Part Two: Toolkit** is geared toward CBOs with more detailed considerations for the administration of cash relief programs (forthcoming in June 2020).

## PART ONE: LANDSCAPE

The magnitude of financial need is enormous. Consider these stats:

- Even prior to the pandemic, 40% of Americans lacked \$400 to cover an emergency and more than 75% were living paycheck to paycheck.<sup>1</sup> On May 14, 2020, the Federal Reserve updated its analysis to report that 40% of people earning less than \$40,000 annually have lost their job as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. Pre-COVID financial precariousness combined with massive COVID-related job loss has created incredible demand for financial assistance.
- The disproportionate impact on undocumented immigrants and mixed status families is staggering: the Migration Policy Institute estimates that over 4 million California residents are excluded from federal relief.<sup>2</sup> In California, the Community and Labor Center at the University of California Merced estimates that pandemic-related job loss was highest among non-citizens at close to 24% with nearly 290,000 undocumented workers losing their jobs.<sup>3</sup>
- The state's \$75 million [COVID-19 Disaster Relief Assistance for Immigrants](#) aims to reach 150,000 people which accounts for roughly 5-7% of the state's total undocumented population, estimated between 2.2-2.6 million, depending on data source and year,<sup>4</sup> with a steadily declining undocumented population over the past decade.
- Every community and every relief fund report a demand that far outstrips supply. Waiting lists range from 300+ in Contra Costa, to 3,000+ in Napa and Oakland, to 13,000+ in Santa Clara.

The Bay Area has a robust ecosystem of community-based organizations of all types and sizes, as well as an active and well-resourced philanthropic community. Our region benefits from a rich diversity and creativity of approaches in working with immigrant populations generally, and undocumented immigrants specifically. Although this environment is a huge asset, it also creates a complicated and sometimes confusing and crowded constellation of efforts—precisely because it is so varied, multi-faceted and expansive.

Organizations bring varying strengths, styles and methodologies to their programming. There are restrictions based on geography or funding source, differences in eligibility criteria and thresholds, and differing processes and procedures. Yet conversations with organizations operating these funds across the region make it clear that the two most

---

<sup>1</sup> Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, May 2018: Report on the Economic Well-being of U.S. Households in 2017

<sup>2</sup> Migration Policy Institute, May 2020: Mixed-Status Families Ineligible for CARES Act Federal Pandemic Stimulus Checks

<sup>3</sup> Community and Labor Center at the University of California Merced, May 2020 Policy Report: Massive Job Losses among Non-Citizens in California and the U.S.

<sup>4</sup> Public Policy Institute of California: 2.6m (2013); Center for Migration Studies: 2.7m (2013), 2.6m (2014) 2.4m (2017), and 2.3m (2018); Pew Research Center: 2.3m (2014) and 2.2m (2016); Migration Policy Institute: 2.7m (2012-2016 ACS data)

critical success factors in cash relief are *(1) organizational capacity and (2) community trust* (more information in Lessons Learned section).

What follows is an inventory of cash relief efforts for undocumented immigrants in the nine-county Bay Area. Funds listed disburse money to individuals—as opposed to landlords or utility companies—with three core criteria for eligibility (unless otherwise noted):

- **Low income** (specificity included where available)
- **Demonstrated hardship due to COVID-19** (i.e. job loss, reduced income, etc.)
- **Ineligible for government benefits**, specifically CARES Act and unemployment

Each county list is divided into three sub-sections:

1. State-funded California Department of Social Services (CDSS) contractor for the county,
2. Groups supported by GCIR's California Immigrant Resilience Fund (CIRF) in the county to date<sup>5</sup>, and
3. Additional largely philanthropically supported funds in the county. (Note that funds in this third sub-section were only included if information could be verified and if they fit the core criteria outlined above.)

*NOTE: This list **does not** include statewide or national funds (see [here](#) for periodically updated information on relief funds for undocumented workers across the state and country); school or school district funds; in-kind funds that offer food, diapers and baby formula, etc. or rental assistance payments direct to landlords, (unless noted); or broader funds that may or may not include the undocumented population (unless noted).*

---

<sup>5</sup> The California Immigrant Resilience Fund is continuously adding groups, as funds are secured toward its \$50 million goal.

# RELIEF FUNDS IN THE BAY AREA

**ALAMEDA COUNTY** is characterized by an Oakland-centered network led primarily by immigrant-serving organizations. There are geographic gaps in unincorporated areas, Hayward, Fremont and Livermore. Although there are some funds in these areas, they are relatively small and limited in scope, especially when compared with activity in Oakland. The East Bay Community Foundation, along with the Y&H Soda Foundation, the San Francisco Foundation and others, are funding and brokering partnerships for organizations in the region. Alameda County's undocumented population is 129,500, the second highest in the nine counties, and 8.2% of total population.

***State-funded***

<a href="#"><u>Catholic Charities of the East Bay</u></a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident of Alameda or Contra Costa counties</li> <li>• First come first serve</li> <li>• Capacity of 10,000 residents across both counties</li> <li>• \$500 flat amount per person, up to \$1,000 per household</li> <li>• VISA debit card, direct to individual</li> </ul>
---	---

***CIRF-funded***

<a href="#"><u>Centro Legal de La Raza Oakland Undocumented Relief Fund (OUR Fund)</u></a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident of Oakland or employed in Oakland</li> <li>• \$500 flat amount per eligible person</li> <li>• Check and direct deposit options, direct payment to individual</li> <li>• Partners include ASPIRE, California Immigrant Youth Justice Alliance, Centro Legal de la Raza, EBASE, ROC the Bay, Street Level Health Project, The Unity Council</li> <li>• Temporarily closed; waitlist only</li> </ul>
--	---

***Additional***

<a href="#"><u>Fremont Family Resource Center</u></a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident of Fremont</li> <li>• \$500 flat amount per person</li> <li>• Electronic fund transfer only; bank account required, direct payment to individual</li> <li>• Partnership with Mission Asset Fund</li> </ul>
<a href="#"><u>Hayward Family Support Fund</u></a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident of Hayward</li> <li>• \$500 flat amount per family</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check or debit card options, direct to individual</li> <li>• Partnership with La Familia, City of Hayward, East Bay Community Foundation</li> <li>• Application available in 5 languages: English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Tagalog; lottery system</li> </ul>
<a href="#">The Unity Council</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident of Oakland; current Unity Council clients only</li> <li>• \$500 flat amount per person</li> <li>• Check and electronic fund transfer options, direct to individual</li> <li>• Partnership with check-cashing organization to waive fees</li> <li>• In-house program <i>and</i> partnership with Mission Asset Fund</li> <li>• Not solely undocumented but serving broader population</li> </ul>

---

**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY** is characterized by three micro-regions: West County, Central County and East County, which are distinctively urban, suburban and even more suburban. There are funds and activities in each region, with increasing coordination taking shape across the county. Philanthropic leadership is being provided by the East Bay Community Foundation, Leshar Foundation, Y&H Soda Foundation, Richmond Community Foundation / RCF Connects and the San Francisco Foundation. Contra Costa County has an estimated 77,500 undocumented immigrants, 7.1% of total population.

***State-funded***

<a href="#">Catholic Charities of the East Bay</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident of Alameda and Contra Costa counties</li> <li>• First come first serve</li> <li>• Capacity of 10,000 residents across both counties</li> <li>• \$500 flat amount per person, up to \$1,000 per household</li> <li>• VISA debit card, direct to individual</li> </ul>
--	--

***CIRF-funded***

<a href="#">The Monument Relief Fund</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident of Central and East Contra Costa county (currently exploring county-wide capacity)</li> <li>• \$250 or \$500 flat amount per person based on need</li> <li>• Check disbursement only, direct to individual</li> </ul>
--	---

***Additional***

<p><a href="#"><u>Village Community Resource Center</u></a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident of East Contra Costa County (defined as everything east of Pittsburg, including Antioch, Bethel Island, Brentwood, Byron, Discovery Bay, Knightsen and Oakley)</li> <li>• \$50, \$100 or \$300 depending on family size, income and extent of income loss</li> <li>• VISA debit card, direct to individual</li> <li>• Potentially more than one-time only but still exploring options</li> <li>• Broader than undocumented population, but clientele is 87% Latinx and monolingual Spanish speaking</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u>Richmond Rapid Response Fund</u></a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident of Richmond</li> <li>• \$500 flat amount per person</li> <li>• Check disbursement, direct to individual but will work with people if checks are not feasible</li> <li>• Not solely undocumented but broader population including foster youth, re-entry population and others</li> <li>• Partners include City of Richmond, The RYSE Center, EdFUND West, Richmond Promise, Building Blocks for Kids</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#"><u>Healthy and Active Before 5</u></a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident of Contra Costa County and member of First 5 Contra Costa’s Parent Organizing Regional Groups</li> <li>• Sliding scale amounts based on family need</li> <li>• VISA debit card disbursement through partnership with Community Financial Resources (CFR)</li> <li>• Prioritizing undocumented population with 75% of membership not eligible for government assistance</li> </ul>

---

**MARIN COUNTY** has two local organizations providing cash relief exclusively to undocumented residents, who live predominately in the Canal District of San Rafael. There are several other community-based organizations throughout the county that reach broader low-income populations, and the region benefits from major support and strategic partnership from the Marin Community Foundation (MCF). Marin has the second-lowest



undocumented population in the nine-county Bay Area at 17,500 or 6.8% of its total population.

***State-funded***

<p><a href="#">Catholic Charities Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident of Marin, San Francisco or San Mateo counties</li> <li>• First come first serve basis</li> <li>• Capacity of 8,000 across three counties</li> <li>• \$500 flat amount per person, up to \$1,000 per household</li> <li>• Pre-VISA debit card direct to individual</li> </ul>
---	--

***CIRF-funded***

<p><a href="#">The Multicultural Center of Marin COVID-19 Community Relief Fund</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident of Marin County</li> <li>• \$250 - \$750 depending on family income and size</li> <li>• Check disbursement to date but exploring other options, direct to individual</li> <li>• In-house program and partnership with Family Independence Initiative</li> </ul>
---	---

***Additional***

<p><a href="#">Canal Alliance Client Support Fund</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident of Marin County</li> <li>• \$600 flat amount per person</li> <li>• Check or electronic fund transfer options, direct to individual</li> <li>• In-house program and partnerships with Mission Asset Fund and Family Independence Initiative</li> </ul>
---	---

**NAPA COUNTY** is the most experienced of Bay Area counties in disaster relief given the 2014 earthquake, 2017 fires, 2019 floods and 2019 power shut offs. It stands out for its centralized and coordinated system with skills, trust and clear division of responsibility among groups. It benefits from support and partnership from the Napa Valley Community Foundation. Although it has the smallest undocumented population of the nine Bay Area counties (15,500), it has the highest percentage relative to total population (11%).

**State-funded**

<a href="#"><u>California Human Development</u></a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident of Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Tehama, Trinity counties</li> <li>• First come first serve basis</li> <li>• Capacity of 10,000 across 24 counties</li> <li>• \$500 flat amount per person, up to \$1,000 per household</li> <li>• VISA debit card, direct to individual</li> </ul>
---	--

**CIRF-funded**

<a href="#"><u>UpValley Family Centers</u></a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident or child in Napa Valley Unified School District in northern Napa county including Calistoga, St. Helena and Yountville</li> <li>• Up to \$1,500 based on income and family size</li> <li>• Check disbursement only, direct to individual</li> <li>• Less than 120% of Area Median Income</li> </ul>
<a href="#"><u>On the Move</u></a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident or child in Napa Valley Unified School District in southern Napa county including Napa and American Canyon</li> <li>• Up to \$1,500 based on income and family size</li> <li>• Check disbursement only, direct to individual</li> <li>• Less than 120% of Area Median Income</li> </ul>

**Additional**

<a href="#"><u>Puertas Abiertas Community Resource Center</u></a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident of Napa County</li> <li>• \$1,000 flat amount per family</li> <li>• Check disbursement only, direct to individual</li> <li>• Partnerships with Redwood Credit Union and Travis Credit Union</li> </ul>
---	--

**SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY** benefits from a network of immigrant advocates and service providers—rooted primarily in the Mission district but reaching all parts of the city/county. It is a multi-racial ecosystem with decades-long coalitions and partnerships. There is a Mayor-backed and City-led [Give2SF COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund](#) that provides

direct funding to CBOs, in addition to distributing \$250 Safeway gift cards to 2,500 undocumented San Franciscans through the Healthy San Francisco Network. The San Francisco Foundation is complementing this effort through its regional COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund. San Francisco has the lowest percentage (4.2%) of undocumented immigrants in the region, which is estimated to be 35,000.

***State-funded***

<p><a href="#">Catholic Charities Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident of Marin, San Francisco or San Mateo counties</li> <li>• First come first serve basis</li> <li>• Capacity of 8,000 across three counties</li> <li>• \$500 flat amount per person, up to \$1,000 per household</li> <li>• VISA debit card, direct to individual</li> </ul>
---	---

***CIRF-funded***

<p><a href="#">UndocuFund San Francisco</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People who live, work or recently lost work in San Francisco</li> <li>• \$1,000-\$1,500 depending on family size</li> <li>• Check disbursement only but looking to expand to other options, direct to individual</li> <li>• Partners include Chinese Progressive Association, Dolores Street Community Services, La Colectiva, Mujeres Unidas y Activas, PODER, Jobs with Justice San Francisco, Young Workers United</li> </ul>
---	---

***Additional***

<p><a href="#">Mission Economic Development Agency (MEDA)</a> <a href="#">Mission Families Relief Fund</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently receiving services from MEDA and/or tenants of MEDA properties</li> <li>• Live and/or have children attending school in Mission Promise neighborhood</li> <li>• Family with dependent under age 18</li> <li>• Less than 50% Area Median Income</li> <li>• \$1,000 flat amount per family</li> <li>• Check or electronic fund transfer options, direct to individual</li> <li>• Closed while MEDA raises more funds</li> </ul>
--	--

<a href="#">La Raza Community Resource Center Emergency Fund Service Connection</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident of San Francisco</li> <li>• Less than 35% Area Median Income</li> <li>• Up to \$1,200 based on family size and income</li> <li>• VISA debit card disbursement, direct to individual</li> </ul>
---	--

**SAN MATEO COUNTY** is characterized by distinct “bayside” and “coastside” service areas, with a well-coordinated network of eight core service providers contracted by the county to provide basic needs support and rental assistance. Community-driven power-building is taking shape among organizers and advocates, with a goal of achieving longer term support and infrastructure to support immigrants—not just one-time cash-aid. Key support comes from local/county officials, as well as the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, the San Francisco Foundation, and the Grove Foundation. There are 59,500 undocumented immigrants in the County, or 7.9% of the total population.

***State-funded***

<a href="#">Catholic Charities Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident of Marin, San Francisco or San Mateo counties</li> <li>• First come first serve basis</li> <li>• Capacity of 8,000 across three counties</li> <li>• \$500 flat amount per person, up to \$1,000 per household</li> <li>• VISA debit card, direct to individual</li> </ul>
--	---

***CIRF-funded***

<a href="#">Legal Aid of San Mateo County</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident of San Mateo County</li> <li>• ages 17 and up</li> <li>• \$500 flat amount per person</li> <li>• Electronic fund transfer only; bank account required, direct payment to individual</li> <li>• Partnership with Mission Asset Fund</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Community Legal Services of East Palo Alto (CLSEPA)</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident of East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Redwood City, North Fair Oaks (Mountain View on case-by-case basis)</li> <li>• Up to \$3,500 per household based on rent</li> <li>• Check disbursement, direct to landlord only (included because unlike most rental assistance programs, currently prioritizing individuals who do not qualify for Unemployment Insurance)</li> <li>• Temporarily closed; waitlist only</li> </ul>

**Additional**

<a href="#"><u>Puente COVID-19 Public Health Response Fund</u></a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident of Pescadero, La Honda, Loma Mar, San Gregorio</li> <li>• \$500 flat amount per person, up to \$1,000 per household</li> <li>• Check disbursement, direct to individual; partnership with Tri Counties bank for check-cashing with fees waived</li> </ul>
<a href="#"><u>Coastside Crisis Fund</u></a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident of Half Moon Bay, Montara, Moss Beach, El Granada</li> <li>• Cash stipend and gift cards for up to three months: \$575 check month one, \$575 check month two, \$575 food card month three; all direct to individual</li> <li>• Partners include Abundant Grace, ALAS and Coastside Hope</li> </ul>
<a href="#"><u>Live in Peace Emergency Fund</u></a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident of East Palo Alto, East Menlo Park or Redwood City and a member, participant or neighbor of one of the three partner organizations</li> <li>• Varying amounts based on rental needs – up to three months</li> <li>• Check disbursement only, direct to individual</li> <li>• Partners include Live in Peace, Kafenia, Dreamers Roadmap</li> <li>• Not solely for undocumented population, but 90% do not qualify for government assistance</li> </ul>

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY** stands out for its strong public-private partnerships, which predate the pandemic and are rooted in a well-coordinated county-wide homelessness response system. In partnership with the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, Destination: Home acted quickly and collaboratively to raise significant money (\$25 million+) and designed a county-wide fund that is centralized, but also inclusive of smaller, grassroots organizations with trusted relationships to immigrant populations. Santa Clara is the most populous county in the region, with nearly 200,000 undocumented people, the highest of the nine Bay Area counties and 9.8% of its total population.

**State-funded**

<a href="#"><u>Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County</u></a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident of Santa Clara county</li> <li>• First come first serve basis with capacity of 12,000</li> </ul>
---	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$500 flat amount per person, up to \$1,000 per household</li> <li>• VISA debit card, direct to individual</li> </ul>
--	--

***CIRF-funded***

<a href="#">SOLO Solidarity Fund</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undocumented immigrants in Santa Clara county who are currently in removal proceedings or have an immediate family member in immigration detention</li> <li>• \$1,000 flat amount per person</li> <li>• Partners include Human Agenda and the Rapid Response Network of Santa Clara</li> </ul>
--------------------------------------	---

***Additional***

<a href="#">Destination: Home's COVID-19 Financial Assistance Fund</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident of Santa Clara county</li> </ul> <p><i>Phase One</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$2,600 flat amount per household</li> <li>• Less than 80% Area Median Income, not specifically for those ineligible for government assistance</li> <li>• Check and VISA debit cards, direct to individual</li> <li>• \$12.5M total disbursed</li> </ul> <p><i>Phase Two</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$1,000 flat amount per person, up to \$2,000 per household</li> <li>• Less than 30% Area Median Income, specifically for those ineligible for government assistance</li> <li>• \$12.5 million to be disbursed</li> <li>• Check, VISA debit card and electronic fund transfer, direct to individual</li> <li>• Destination: Home will fund 50 organizations to assist in deploying resources along with centralized intake effort led by Sacred Heart</li> <li>• Partners include AACI, Bill Wilson Center, Catholic Charities, Community Solutions, Destination: Home, Family Supportive Housing, Next Door, Sacred Heart, St. Joseph, Sunnyvale Community Services, West Valley Community Services, YWCA</li> </ul>
--	---

<a href="#">East San Jose PEACE Partnership Wellness Fund Relief Fund</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident of 95116, 95122, 95127 or 95133 zip codes</li> <li>• \$500 flat amount per person</li> <li>• Check and gift card disbursement, direct to individual; also working with Family Independence Initiative to provide electronic fund transfer when applicable</li> <li>• Over 25 city/county partners with leadership by SOMOS Mayfair</li> </ul>
---	---

**SOLANO COUNTY** is a gap within the nine-county Bay Area. Outside of the recently released state dollars to California Human Development, there do not appear to be direct cash relief programs—only rental assistance. These are administered by Catholic Charities and a county-wide network of family resource centers. Although there are smaller groups filling in language gaps for the Latino and indigenous communities, they are volunteer-run with minimal capacity. There is a dearth of nonprofit infrastructure and philanthropic investment as compared to other parts of the Bay Area, with First Five Solano and United Way of the Bay Area providing leadership. Solano’s undocumented population is 24,000 or 5.6% of total population.

**State-funded**

<a href="#">California Human Development</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident of Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma Tehama, Trinity counties</li> <li>• First come first serve basis</li> <li>• Capacity of 10,000 across 24 counties</li> <li>• \$500 flat amount per person + \$1,000 per household</li> <li>• VISA debit card, direct to individual</li> </ul>
--	--

*No California Immigrant Resilience Fund (CIRF) funded group in Solano to-date*

*No additional groups providing direct cash relief – only rental assistance to landlords and utilities (e.g. PG&E) through Catholic Charities of Yolo Solano and family resource centers.*

**SONOMA COUNTY** is home to the original UndocuFund, which was formed in 2017 in response to the North Bay fires. Given the magnitude and reach of COVID-19, and the now crowded field of similar funds, Sonoma is not getting nearly the financial support it did previously (UndocuFund Sonoma has raised \$800,000 to date in 2020 compared to \$6.8 million in 2017). There is a network of culturally competent mainly Latino-serving organizations throughout the county that are well coordinated by geography. Sonoma’s undocumented population is 38,500, which is 7.8% of total population.

***State-funded***

<p><a href="#">California Human Development</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident of Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma Tehama, Trinity counties</li> <li>• First come first serve basis</li> <li>• Capacity of 10,000 across 24 counties</li> <li>• \$500 flat amount per person + \$1,000 per household</li> <li>• Pre-paid debit card, direct to individual</li> </ul>
---	--

***CIRF-funded***

<p><a href="#">UndocuFund for Disaster Relief in Sonoma County</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident of Sonoma county</li> <li>• \$500 flat amount, direct to individual</li> <li>• Check disbursement only; partnership with Redwood Credit Union to waive check-cashing fees</li> <li>• Partners include Graton Day Labor Center, North Bay Organizing Project, North Bay Jobs with Justice</li> <li>• Temporarily closed; waitlist only</li> </ul>
--	--

***Additional***

<p><a href="#">La Luz Crisis Fund</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident of Sonoma Valley including Glen Ellen</li> <li>• Up to \$1,500 based on income and family size</li> <li>• Check disbursement only; most payments to landlord for rental assistance but disbursed through individual (who then pays landlord)</li> <li>• Some support for documented and mixed status families</li> </ul>
---	--



<a href="#">Corazon Healdsburg Unity and Community Fund</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident of Sonoma county with priority for those who live or work in Northern Sonoma county (Windsor to Cloverdale) and work for wineries or restaurants</li> <li>• Up to \$1,500 based on income and family size</li> <li>• Check or gift cards, direct to individual</li> <li>• Some support for documented and mixed status families</li> </ul>
---	--

**BAY AREA:** There are several efforts that reach individuals and families in multiple counties.

Mission Asset Fund (MAF) and Family Independence Initiative (FII) have emerged as two financial intermediaries providing back-end distribution support for other organizations across the Bay Area. In these partnerships, local nonprofits identify qualified recipients, and then MAF and FII verify the individuals' eligibility and disburse to them a one-time cash payment of \$500. *(Note: Both organizations are continuously adding partners.)*

<a href="#">Mission Asset Fund Immigrant Families Fund</a>	Partners include Unity Council, Canal Alliance, Legal Aid Society of San Mateo, Mission Neighborhood Centers, Good Samaritan Family Resource Center, MEDA Chinatown Community Development Center, CARECEN, Legal Services for Children, We Rise SF, Dolores Street Community Services, Jubilee Immigration Advocates, Prospera, Fremont Family Resource Center, UpValley Family Centers, Catholic Charities Santa Clara County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bay Area and national reach through partnerships with CBOs</li> <li>• \$500 flat amount</li> <li>• Electronic fund transfer and check options; also looking to add VISA debit card soon</li> <li>• Direct to individual</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Family Independence Initiative Give Together Now</a>	Partners include ACCE Oakland, ACCE Contra Costa County, BAJI Oakland,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bay Area and national reach through partnerships with CBOs</li> </ul>

	Beyond 12, Braven, East Oakland Dreamers, Ella Baker Center, Filipino Advocate for Justice, GO Public Schools, Immigrant Family Defense Fund, Innovate Schools, Mujeres Unidas y Activas, One Fair Wage, ROC-Oakland, Richmond Promise, SOMOS Mayfair, Young Women's Freedom Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$500 flat amount</li> <li>• Electronic fund transfer and VISA debit card options through FII's UpTogether platform</li> <li>• Direct to individual</li> <li>• Not exclusive to undocumented population, other populations experiencing hardship can be eligible</li> </ul>
--	---	--

***CIRF-funded***

<a href="#">Black LGBTQIA+ Migrant Project (BLMP) Covid-19 Cash Assistance</a>	African Advocacy Network; Afro Urban Society; Black LGBTQ+ Migrant Project; CSU East Bay GSA Network; Oakland LGBT Center; Pangea; Priority Africa Network; SF LGBT Center; SF State Transform California; Transgender Law Center; TGJJP; Zawadi at UC Berkeley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident of six-county Bay Area</li> <li>• \$250 - \$500 per person</li> <li>• Black LGBTQ+ migrants and first-generation people dealing with the impact of COVID-19</li> </ul>
<a href="#">California Nail Salon Community Care Fund</a>	Asian Health Services; California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident of six-county Bay Area</li> <li>• Determinations of amounts on case-by-case basis</li> <li>• Manicurists who have lost jobs and income due to Covid-19</li> </ul>
<a href="#">COVID Migrant Youth Relief Fund</a>	East Oakland Dreamers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident of 6-county Bay Area</li> <li>• Up to \$500 per person</li> <li>• Migrant youth (15-30 years old) or adult migrant guardian of youth (aged 0-20)</li> </ul>

**Additional**

<p><a href="#">Mujeres Unidas y Activas (MUA) Immigrant Families Relief Fund</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Active participant in MUA programs within last two years</li><li>• \$500 flat amount per person; currently one-time but exploring feasibility of additional support</li><li>• Check or electronic bank transfer options</li><li>• In-house program and partnerships with Family Independence Initiative and SF UndocuFund</li><li>• Not exclusive to undocumented population, other populations experiencing hardship can be eligible</li></ul>
--	---

**GAPS**

Acknowledging that all funds are far from meeting the need of the communities they serve, there are three main gaps in cash relief for undocumented immigrants in the nine-county Bay Area. Two are geographic gaps and one is a population gap:

**1. Solano County**

As referenced earlier, [Solano County gets the least philanthropic attention](#) and has less non-profit infrastructure than other Bay Area counties. The COVID-19 crisis has exacerbated this disproportionality. Although there are rental assistance programs, food distribution programs and other basic need supports, it is the only county in the nine-county region that does not have active cash relief efforts outside of the state funds being administered through California Human Development. There is opportunity to nurture additional capacity with trusted, culturally competent groups like Centro Latino and Voces Unidas, while simultaneously leveraging the infrastructure of Catholic Charities of Yolo-Solano and the Children’s Network of Solano County.

**2. South and East Alameda County**

Alameda County is the second-most populous county in the region, with a concentration of services in Oakland, and to a lesser extent, Berkeley. Cities and unincorporated areas south and east of Oakland with significant working-class and immigrant populations—including Ashland/Cherryland, Castro Valley, Hayward, Fremont, Livermore and San Lorenzo—do not get as much philanthropic support. However, there are strong networks of leaders connected to relatively smaller organizations that have trust in the community and should be leveraged. Although there are some resources in these areas, more can be done outside of the

Oakland/Berkeley urban core. Groups to consider include My Eden Voice, Fremont Family Resource Center, La Familia and Tri-Valley Haven.

### 3. *Non-Latinx Populations*

According to the Center for Migration Studies, 77% of undocumented immigrants in California are from Latin America, 20% are from Asia, and the rest are from parts of Africa, Europe and elsewhere. This dovetails with national data from the Pew Research Center that estimates 78% of undocumented immigrants are from Latin America. Although we do not have more granular data for the Bay Area region by county, the availability of services and support for undocumented immigrants in the region maps to this data—with a majority of cash relief efforts aimed at Latinx and Spanish-speaking populations.

While there are pockets of tailored support for Asian, African and other non-Latinx populations, more is needed to ensure all immigrant populations are being reached—including expansion of language access and translation of materials beyond Spanish. Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees (GCIR) has been particularly attentive to these gaps, funding two overlooked sub-populations in its first phase of Bay Area funding: one for Vietnamese nail salon workers, and another for Black LGBTQ individuals.

---

## LESSONS LEARNED

In scanning the Bay Area environment and talking to over 75 stakeholders, a few learnings and best practices have emerged:

- > **Two things can be true at the same time.** We need centralized, streamlined systems that prioritize efficiency and economies of scale, while also being attentive to the importance of trust, community relationships and cultural responsiveness. It is important to acknowledge that longstanding tensions in the field have surfaced in trying to untangle cash relief efforts—these can be oversimplified as large vs. small, organizing vs. service provision, and/or centralized vs. dispersed. However, given the magnitude of demand for financial assistance, this is generally an “all-hands-on-deck” time with room for multiple organizations and efforts. Fundamentally, *the two key factors for success in cash relief are capacity and trust*—does the organization have the capacity to engage in the distribution of cash AND is it accessible to the community through trusted relationships on the ground?

- *Capacity:* Things to look for on the organizational capacity-front include a secure database for intake and processing, adequate staffing including a full-time accountant, clean audited financial statements, and mobile technology to communicate with participants or members. It is also important for funders to help build such capacity if it is nascent or does not exist. There are highly capable leaders running smaller, less-resourced organizations; with additional capital and support, these efforts can be strengthened.
  - *Trust:* Things to look for include involvement of constituents and community members in advisory or decision-making roles, translation of key materials and documents in languages other than English, and word-of-mouth referrals by existing clients.
- > **Don't forget the long game.** Although the immediacy of cash relief is important, it is fundamentally a short-term approach. We need to simultaneously work toward longer-term systems change and power building rooted in equity. Examples include expansion of rent moratoriums, deportation moratoriums, expansion of public benefits to unauthorized immigrants, pathways to permanent residency and citizenship, and exploration of basic income programs. Although groups operating relief funds will have varying interest (and ability) to incorporate these elements into their efforts, it is imperative that funders support and champion policy change at the same time they are investing in cash relief.
  - > **Pre-existing experience and partnerships are key.** Communities that have spent time planning, crafting and building meaningful cross-sector relationships have fared better than those that have not. Specifically, counties that were coordinated for other reasons (e.g. Santa Clara's homelessness response system, Napa's disaster relief system) have proven to move more quickly and have also benefited from a clearer delineation of roles and responsibilities. There is value in cultivating and investing in these relationships post-crisis to ensure that communities are better prepared for future times of need. Many funders and community-based organizations expressed interest in finding time and space to debrief successes and challenges in the spirit of learning and continuous improvement.
  - > **Move with agility and trust.** Uncertainty is emerging as the most apt description of the COVID-19 crisis. While we are bombarded with information and an oversaturation of data and resources, we are also operating with incomplete and/or imperfect information. It is critical that funders and grantees alike practice agility, flexibility, and trust in their working relationships. Executing in a continually changing environment requires constant adjustment and adaptability—and funders must operate with trust in leaders on the ground, as they witness the impacts in their community and how they are changing in real time.

- > **Pay attention to staff needs.** The COVID-19 crisis and its ripple effects are taking a toll on nonprofit staff—particularly frontline workers who are absorbing harrowing stories of hardship daily. In organizational interviews, the vicarious or secondary trauma experienced by nonprofit staff came up time and again as a key concern of Executive Directors. Paying attention to the mental health and wellness needs of organizational staff is critical, especially given the long-term impacts of the pandemic. This can look like bonus/incentive pay, additional paid time off, organizational wellness initiatives, and/or simply acknowledging and naming the normalcy of increased anxiety and depression during these difficult times. Funders need to proactively inquire about the health of staff and consider additional support for frontline staff.
- 

## FUNDER BEST PRACTICES

- > **Invest in relational efforts, not just transactional programs.** As one community member put it, “People need more than just money in a disaster.” They need to be seen and honored for their humanity, treated with respect and dignity, and holistically supported through connections and referrals, including enrollment in benefits for which they may be eligible, and referrals to culturally-competent programs and services outside of cash-aid. For example, it may be understandable to want or expect organizations to process a certain number of applications in a given day or week for the sake of efficiency and productivity (especially given the long wait lists), but interviews with frontline staff reveal that sometimes phone intake sessions can take up to one hour, largely because community members need and want to be heard; they are often processing incredible grief and stress. We need to be attentive to this reality in our expectations of organizations.
- > **Invest in efforts that involve and listen to constituents.** One of the distinguishing characteristics of the original UndocuFund in Sonoma County is that it was born from and with the immigrant community—specifically day laborers. Undocumented community members were asked and listened to when setting up program criteria and guidelines. This approach has been embraced by other efforts as well, most notably in Santa Clara County where 300 immigrants were surveyed to solicit real-time feedback and perspectives on how to design cash relief programs in the community.
- > **Invest in collaboration.** Many funds operate with some measure of partnership and collaboration among several organizations. Sometimes this is loose or informal and mainly involves sending client referrals; but others are more formal and

structured and involve specified roles and responsibilities, through official MOUs or sub-contracts. There are clear benefits of collaboration including division of labor, economies of scale, and streamlined information. Funders should encourage clarity of role and purpose in collaborative grantmaking.

- > **Invest in direct payment programs.** Efforts that provide cash relief directly to individuals—as opposed to landlords or other third-party vendors—are more efficacious because they optimize choice and flexibility for recipients. Although rental assistance programs (many which pre-date COVID-19 response) are helpful and important, they are generally highly scrutinized and can be limiting and prescriptive. For example, many rental assistance programs require recipients to document an ability to pay rent going forward, which is nearly impossible given massive COVID-related job loss across the region.
- > **Invest in optionality.** There are at least three payment mechanisms for cash disbursement:

<i>VISA debit card</i>	Least restrictive, no bank account needed, potential fees
<i>Check</i>	Medium restrictive, need access to check cashing, potential fees
<i>Electronic fund transfer</i>	More restrictive, need bank account, no fees

There are pros and cons with each; therefore, it is important to invest in optionality and choice, in recognition that immigrants have varying levels of access to banking and financial institutions. Another way funders can help is by brokering relationships between nonprofits and financial institutions to waive fees and make it easier for people to access cash without getting stripped of monetary value through fees and fines.

- > **Invest in overhead and administrative support.** It has become appealing to promise “every dollar raised will go to a person in need,” but the efficacy of financial assistance programs is highly dependent on the quality of its staffing and systems. This is even more important given the privacy and security issues integral to working with immigrant populations, as well as the fiscal and fiduciary responsibilities involved in distributing cash relief. Organizations need operating dollars to adequately invest in not only program administration (screening/intake/processing) but also accounting, fundraising and quality controls. Financial assistance programs increase audit exposure, especially for smaller nonprofits and groups that have never administrated cash relief before—and funders should be providing general operating support. Other ways funders can boost specific capacity needs:

- **Legal:** Connecting groups to pro-bono lawyers and no-cost legal counsel is needed to ensure nonprofits are following the most recent regulations and protocols in cash relief disbursement.
- **Technology:** One of the most challenging elements of this crisis (especially when compared to other disasters) is the remote nature of response. Organizations have had to adapt quickly to use of phone and text for client interactions. Groups need help with their technology systems, including optimization for mobile.

As noted in the Introduction, this is a snapshot-in-time meant to assist funders in identifying critical issues and key groups involved in cash relief efforts for undocumented immigrants in the Bay Area. If there are funds or issues not captured in this landscape, and/or if you would like additional information or insight on anything in this document, please contact Karina Moreno at [kfmoreno@yahoo.com](mailto:kfmoreno@yahoo.com).

Next steps include a corresponding toolkit geared more toward community-based organizations with tips and tools in the administration of cash relief funds. Once that is complete, the two parts will be combined as one resource for interested stakeholders.

Importantly, it is the intent and interest of the San Francisco Foundation, ReWork the Bay and its numerous philanthropic and community-based partners to continue to elevate the needs and strengths of our undocumented neighbors, who have *always* been essential to our Bay Area communities. Funders interested in learning more about longer-term immigrant advocacy and power building efforts can contact Tessa Rouverol Callejo at [trc@sff.org](mailto:trc@sff.org).

We would like to acknowledge Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees (GCIR) for the valuable advice and partnership they provided on this project, as well as the organizational leaders and funders who took the time to share experiences, insights and perspectives on cash relief funds for our undocumented neighbors. Thank you.