



IMMIGRATION

Why this issue is important

Although San Francisco is one of the most progressive cities in the U.S., immigrants face numerous challenges living here, including:

- Lack of access to housing, quality jobs, healthcare, and good schools
- Fear of deportation and forced family break-up
- Employer exploitation
- Discrimination

Background

SFOP has worked over the long term to:

- Increase access to educational and social services for immigrants regardless of documentation status.
- Pass policies to ensure San Francisco is a sanctuary from discriminatory state or federal policies.
- Develop immigrant community leaders to speak for their own community.

Measurable Results

In the 1980's, SFOP was part of the coalition that passed San Francisco's first Sanctuary City ordinance. After the 1986 federal amnesty law was passed, this coalition also ensured that San Franciscan residents could easily apply for amnesty and access the English and citizenship classes necessary to fully take part in civic life. SFOP immigrant leaders from Mission Dolores, St. Anthony's, Church of the Visitation, and Corpus Christi worked in coalition with others to create the Healthy Kids program, which provides health coverage to children in the city regardless of documentation status. SFOP sponsored enrollment events in the Mission that helped enroll more than 2000 children. In 2007, St. Peter's Church in the Mission hosted a meeting with 450 immigrant participants, in which Mayor Newsom reconfirmed the city's commitment to providing sanctuary to undocumented immigrants, including creating more access to city services.

