

Our roots...

2010



The start of the IEIYC dates back to the Dream Act, which would have provided a pathway to legal status for undocumented youth who came to the U.S. as children. Despite the economic benefits and opportunities the bill could have brought to life, this piece of legislation was crushed by the U.S. Senate. Leaders of the collective then shifted their efforts towards the decriminalization of immigrant communities, ending detention and deportations. Because the founders directly experienced discrimination and limited access to resources, they created their own collective where they can bring their whole selves to organize and support one another.



2011

CA Dream Act signed into law!

The CA Dream Act allows undocumented students, DACA recipients, U Visa holders and students under TPS, who qualify for a non-resident exemption under AB 540, SB 2000 and SB 68, to receive certain types of financial aid such as:

- private scholarships funded through public universities
- state administered financial aid
- university grants
- community college fee waivers
- cal grants

CA Dream Act also allows eligible students to pay in-state tuition at any public college in California. The IEIYC provides 1-1 guidance & hosts CA Dream Act workshops.

2012

DACA

(Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals)

IEIYC members occupied the Obama for America offices in Colorado and Oakland to push for Deferred action for childhood arrivals (DACA). Today, there are 60,000 DACA recipients living in the Inland Empire. We've trained youth volunteers to pre-screen potential DACA candidates, do a walk through of the renewal process, and share the latest updates. We've also helped community members prepare their applications and connected them with financial relief to cover the costs. Even after they submit their application, we've built relationships with community members overtime to ensure they are directed to the services they need.

2013



Members of the IEIYC have pressured state & local officials to shut down the Adelanto detention facility from the very beginning. From the civil disobedience action demonstrated by IEIYC leaders, to car rallies, and light vigils, we continue the fight to #freethemALL. These private prisons operate under the exploitation of our friends, family, parents, & neighbors. We demand mass releases, an end in detention expansions and for prison corporations to be held accountable for the harm they inflict on our communities. There is a need for systems of care and investment in our people that will truly allow them to flourish.



Emergency Response Network

IEIYC founders started the ERN and occupy stoplights near checkpoints to warn folks about the retenes ahead. They held signs that urged undocumented drivers to mention AB353 if they didn't have a license. Youth trained about 60 people throughout the I.E. to respond to emergencies, deportations, detentions, and intake. Members also followed up with families to connect them with legal resources and general support.



Coming out of the Shadows Rally

In 2013, IEIYC leaders held a rally making clear that may be undocumented, but no longer afraid. This was a time where community members and immigrant folks previously "in the shadows" demonstrated their solidarity by sharing their stories and strengthening their commitment to the liberation of those recently affected by ICE. Youth reclaim their identities and power to continue mobilizing for immigrant justice.

2014

UndocuHealth Conference Launch!!

The IEIYC launched their 1st annual event where undocumented communities in the Inland Empire can access free or low cost medical, legal, and social services. This was a one stop shop for the immigrant families to understand the healthcare system through education and creating accessible pathways to county, state, or federal resources available to them to bridge the gaps of health inequity.



2015

AB60: The Safe and Responsible Driver Act goes into effect!

Effective January 1st, 2015, the Department of Motor Vehicles would now issue a driver's license to any California resident who is eligible regardless of immigration status. AB 60 driver licenses are for individuals who are unable to provide proof of legal presence in the United States, but can provide proof of identity, California residency, and meet California's DMV requirements. We supported by educating the community about AB 60 and hosted workshops to facilitate the application process.



2017

The Undocumented Mentorship Academy (UMA) begins!

IEIYC launches its very own, 8-week program that provides a space for undocumented youth to enjoy mentorship opportunities and foster relationships with community leaders. UMA youth become civically engaged, express their creativity, enjoy healing activities, and build personal and professional development skills. Youth are awarded a stipend at the end of the program and often leave with meaningful experiences and connections.



Our roots...



The Health Ambassadors Program starts

Led by poderoses throughout San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, they advocated for health care inclusive to ALL – no matter their status. The goal was to increase the use of available medical programs, clear uncertainties about public charge, bring attention to the California Values Act (AB54), and clarify any misinformation that may have prevented the undocumented population from seeking medical treatment. Rather than relying on systems, the ambassadors relied on each other as they mobilized for #Health4All.



#Health4All expanded to children

The Health4All Campaign began in 2013 when immigrant rights activists including the IEIYC, health care advocates, and community members came together to call for the expansion of health care to all Californians, regardless of immigration status. Undocumented immigrants were unfairly excluded from financial help for coverage through the Affordable Care Act. With our supporting efforts, Health4All Kids became a reality. Governor Newsom and the state legislature expanded full scope Medi-Cal to all children up to the age of 26, regardless of immigration status to be effective January 1st 2020.

2020

#SafetyNet4All campaign begins!

1 in 10 working people in California are excluded from relief, making basic necessities impossible to reach just because of their immigration status. #SafetyNet4All would guarantee an 8-week wage replacement program operating similarly to unemployment insurance, offering an allowance to undocumented workers experiencing job loss and economic hardship. COVID-19 has further demonstrated the need to protect the well-being of undocumented individuals who have been at the frontlines of essential work. IEIYC remains alongside partners in the region to uplift the campaign by driving up to the state capitol, calling our state representatives, writing letters to local legislative leaders, and amplifying historically excluded workers' voices to ensure that our immigrant community has a safety net to fall back on.



2021

IEIYC becomes a trusted messenger in the statewide Covid-19 campaign!

Authorized by SB 115, IEIYC was identified as a community based organization and received funding to conduct COVID-19 safety outreach and reach disproportionately impacted communities. Still, our youth remain highly engaged in supporting interactive COVID-19 outreach efforts throughout the Inland Empire to connect the community with the newest developments in public health guidance, COVID-19 testing and vaccination resources, and provide trusted information to clarify myths and disinformation.



2018

SB54: California Values Act

Authorities may not use resources to investigate or arrest people for federal immigration enforcement purposes. Our schools, hospitals, courthouses, and law enforcement are restricted from cooperating with ICE. SB 54's goal is to ensure that our state doesn't fuel mass deportations, separate families, or spread fear throughout our communities. We've supported with legislature visits, phone banking, truth forums, and have called in law enforcement to ensure they are following through with implementation.

2019

SB946: Safe Sidewalk Vending Act

Effective January 2019, SB 946 now legalizes and decriminalizes sidewalk vending across the state of California. The bill establishes parameters for local regulation of sidewalk vending and prohibits local authorities from imposing criminal penalties on sidewalk vendors. Sidewalk vendors are known to be a part of California's lively culture, bringing our communities a variety of goods. We continue to support local vendors by uplifting their small businesses, connecting them to vending information, and protecting their rights.



AB32: Ban of Private Prisons in California

Through mobilization, petitions, and organization efforts in the community, AB 32 was approved in 2019. AB 32 makes California the first state in the nation to ban the use of privately-run, for-profit prisons and immigration detention centers. Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation are barred from entering into or renewing a contract with private prison companies after January 1, 2020. California will no longer be able to hold people in for-profit prison facilities like GEO or CoreCivic by 2028.



California Earned Income Tax Credit expanded to ITIN holders!

The IEIYC advocated along the CalEITC state coalition to include all tax filers to receive back the cash refund they've earned. Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC) are tax credits for working people who have earned a low to moderate income. In September of 2020, CalEITC was recently expanded to include folks who file their taxes with ITIN numbers. It now provides state relief to undocumented and mixed-status families across the state.

IEIYC & Filipino American Mental Health Resource Center (FAMHRC) presents Coming out of the Shadows: An API undocumented & immigrant youth event!

In collaboration with the FAMHRC, we hosted an intimate space for API migrant & undocumented community members to discuss the cultural stigma that surrounds mental health and share their unique experiences of accessing mental health services in the API community. We were joined by a mental health professional who discussed topics surrounding immigrant API mental health, and provided resources available for further support. With more interactive workshops to come, this is a moment of learning, healing, and validation for our IE community.

