

San Joaquin Valley Health Fund

2019 I.H.H.E.E.L Policy Platform

Immigration – Health – Housing – Education Environmental Justice – Land Use and Planning

Since 2016, the San Joaquin Valley Health Fund (SVJHF) has partnered with more than 90 nonprofit organizations, 18 funders and dozens of elected officials from across the region to promote policy and systems changes that improve the lives and well-being of children, families and communities in the San Joaquin Valley. The 2019 SVJHF Policy Platform builds upon the work accomplished by our partners over the past three years, and presents a bold pathway toward achieving the goal of equity in all aspects of life – for ALL people living in the San Joaquin Valley.

The 2019 SVJHF Policy Platform aims to advance health and racial equity in the region by identifying and addressing a core set of issue areas that contribute to the inequities disproportionately experienced by children and families in the region. The platform has evolved to reflect the commitment of our SVJHF partners to pursue a holistic strategy that recognizes the interconnectedness of issues, while elevating those areas where the greatest inequities exist for vulnerable residents.

In 2018, the SVJHF Policy Platform consisted of five priority areas that included Immigration, Health, Education, Environment, and Land Use and Planning (I.H.H.E.E.L.). Based on the feedback and leadership provided by community partners, it became clear that the 2019 platform needed to reflect two important changes. The first was a change in the title for the Environment priority to Environmental Justice in recognition of the fact that there are many low-income communities of color in the San Joaquin Valley that suffer the brunt of the environmental injustices and inequities that plague the region.

The second change to the 2019 SVJHF priorities is the addition

of Housing to the Policy Platform. While housing was previously included within the work of the Land Use and Planning priority, SVJHF partners want to underscore the growing challenge of securing access to safe and affordable housing in the San Joaquin Valley, in particular among vulnerable populations. As such, the partners felt it critical to elevate housing as an independent policy priority. With the addition of housing, we are proud to present the 2019 SVJHF IHHEEL Policy Platform.

The fund remains deeply committed to its vision of a *Golden State for All*, and a belief that we must advocate for the fundamental rights and equal opportunity in access for all regardless of their immigration status, income, race, sexual orientation and/or gender identification. To achieve this vision, the SVJHF, its nonprofit leaders, funder partners and elected allies are committed to strengthening our momentum to ensure that future generations of San Joaquin Valley residents have access to the resources, systems and opportunities that promote equity in health, quality of life and economic well-being.

We thank the San Joaquin Valley Health Fund Policy Committee, especially the subcommittee leadership teams, for their time and commitment to the development of the IHHEEL community-driven policy platform. Additionally, we thank the local elected officials throughout the Valley, who believed in the need for a shared policy platform to serve as a collective voice for the shared needs of its residents, to strengthen advocacy efforts, and raise awareness of the assets of the San Joaquin Valley.

While the issues impacting the communities are systemic and profound, with community residents and policymakers working together, we can make significant progress toward a more equitable and Golden California for all .

The Valley IS rising!



San Joaquin Valley Health Fund

The San Joaquin Valley Health Fund is managed by The Center with funding from Sierra Health Foundation, The California Endowment, Rosenberg Foundation, The California Wellness Foundation, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Blue Shield of California Foundation, Wallace H. Coulter Foundation, Dignity Health, Tides, Hellman Foundation, The James Irvine Foundation, Convergence Partnership, Health Net, The Grove Foundation, Werner-Kohnstamm Family Giving Fund, New Venture Fund, Sunlight Giving and Heising-Simons Foundation.

Partner Organizations

Thank you to all of the partners who contributed their time and expertise to developing this policy platform over the past several years.

- ACT for Women and Girls
- Alliance for Community Transformations
- Alliant International University
- Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Asian Law Caucus
- Black Parallel School Board
- California Coalition for Rural Housing
- California Human Development Corporation
- California Immigrant Youth Justice Alliance
- Californians for Pesticide Reform
- California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
- California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation
- California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.
- Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Stockton
- Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment
- Central California Asian Pacific Women
- Central California Environmental Justice Network
- Central California Legal Services, Inc.
- Central Valley Air Quality Coalition
- Central Valley Immigrant Integration Collaborative
- Centro Binacional Para El Desarrollo Indígena Oaxaqueño
- Centro La Familia
- Children Now
- Community Water Center
- Cultural Brokers. Inc.
- Dolores Huerta Foundation
- East Bay Asian Youth Center
- Education and Leadership Foundation
- El Quinto Sol de América
- Empowering Marginalized Asian Communities
- Environmental Justice Coalition for Water
- Faith in the Valley
- Fathers and Families of San Joaquin
- Focus Forward
- Foodlink for Tulare County
- Fresno Barrios Unidos
- Fresno Immigrant Youth in Action
- Golden Valley Health Centers
- Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice
- Greenlining Institute
- Jakara Movement
- Immigrant Legal Resource Center
- Kids in Need of Defense
- Kings Partnership for Prevention, Inc.
- Latino Coalition for a Healthy California
- Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability
- Little Manila Rising
- Madera Coalition for Community Justice
- Merced Organizing Project
- Organización en California de Lideres Campesinas, Inc.
- Planned Parenthood Mar Monte
- Project Prevention Coalition
- Public Health Advocates
- Radio Bilingüe, Inc.
- Reading and Beyond
- Reinvent South Stockton Coalition
- San Joaquin Immigrant Youth Collective
- Rural Community Assistance Corporation
- San Joaquin Pride Center
- Sequoia Riverlands Trust
- Stone Soup
- Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
- The Source LGBT+ Center
- The Utility Reform Network
- UFW Foundation
- World Relief Corporation of National Association of Evangelicals

IMMIGRATION

2019 POLICY PRIORITIES

VISION

To establish a responsive and robust network of legal assistance providers in the San Joaquin Valley that ensures access to legal representation for families facing apprehension and deportation actions by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). A just, equitable and prosperous San Joaquin Valley requires due process for all.

CHALLENGE

Between July 2015 and October 2018, more than 74,800 adults and youth, ranging from 13 to 95 years old, were detained by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency in California's formal detention facilities, while countless others were held in temporary facilities. The average stay in detention was more than 52 days.ⁱ A 2015 analysis found that more than half (55%) of the individuals who were detained were deported, with another 7% terminating based on individuals' "voluntary return or departure."ⁱⁱ An estimated 47% of detainees were parents of U.S.-born children and nearly half (47%) had no criminal history.ⁱⁱⁱ

More than two-thirds (68%) of ICE detainees are processed without any access to legal representation.^{iv} The rate of success for those contesting their deportation is more than four times higher when represented (71%) versus not having legal representation (16%).^v Additionally, only one in 10 of those detained were able to secure and afford the ability to be bonded out of detention, with represented individuals succeeding at a rate of 3.5 times that of their unrepresented peers.^{vi} In the past two years, immigration enforcement has been a priority across our San Joaquin Valley's worksites, neighborhoods and homes.^{vii} Given the dearth of legal resources and the insufficient number of experienced immigration legal representatives in the region, due process and access to immigration relief is often inaccessible to our families.

PATHWAY

To address these immigration due process disparities, we stand united in our call to:

- Increase support to the One California program to strengthen the capacity of San Joaquin Valley organizations to 1) hire attorneys, and 2) support their Recognition and Accreditation efforts with the Department of Justice's Recognition and Accreditation Program
- Promote public and private initiatives whose funding mechanisms 1) foster the growth and sustainability of not-for-profit immigration legal service providers, and 2) are reflective of, and responsive to, the legal needs of San Joaquin Valley residents
- Support full implementation of SB54 to ensure the enforcement of California laws and the protection of immigrant rights
- Support the establishment of an immigration bond fund and a removal defense fund, without restrictions based on criminal history, in every county and all major cities in the San Joaquin Valley to serve individuals in detention and removal proceedings
- Support efforts to secure pathways to citizenship for immigrants and policies that help to keep families intact
- Strengthen Consumer protections against predatory *notario* and attorney fraud practice.

HEALTH

2019 POLICY PRIORITIES

VISION

To strengthen California's efforts and commitment to build on the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Health for All Kids and Medi-Cal to ensure and increase access to culturally and linguistically appropriate health services for every Californian regardless of immigration status, age, sexual orientation or gender identification.

CHALLENGE

The San Joaquin Valley is disparately impacted by environmental, economic and health access factors that place it near the bottom of health outcomes in California. Four of the nine counties that comprise the region – Fresno, Kern, Madera and Tulare – rank among the bottom 10 counties for health outcomes – 52nd, 53rd, 49th and 50th, respectively.^{viii} Two out of every 5 (44% or 1.8 million) of the 4.2 million people who live in the San Joaquin Valley are enrolled in Medi-Cal.^{ix} The San Joaquin Valley also suffers from a severe shortage of providers. For example, a 2019 report found that the ratio of primary care physicians in the San Joaquin Valley, of 39 per 100,000, was 20 percent below the state average of 50 primary care physicians per 100,000.^x

PATHWAY

To address these health disparities, we stand united in our call to:

- Support closing the health care gap among vulnerable populations including young adults over 19, low-income seniors, transgender individuals and uninsured farmworkers
- Support investments in culturally and linguistically appropriate primary care for LGBTQ and transition-related health care for transgender Californians. Advance the collection of SOGIE (sexual orientation/gender identity and expression) data and systems change within healthcare providers to comply with policies already in place that ensure access to care for LGBTQ individuals
- Streamline the portability of Medi-Cal coverage across county lines to ensure the continuation of coverage for already vulnerable populations
- Support dental access and coverage, including sustainable funding; support local implementation of countywide oral health strategic plans to increase awareness, access, and utilization of dental services across the lifespan
- Support and expand the use of county agencies' funds from the Mental Health Services Act county dollars and state Innovation Funds to promote locally and culturally informed efforts to address mental health, behavioral health and substance abuse
- Strengthen the commitments to enforcing charity care requirements that provide a safety net for the uninsured and underinsured
- Support efforts to secure funding and enact institutional and agency policies that help address the shortage of diverse and culturally competent medical and dental providers and specialists in the region through recruitment, retention, incentives and training
- Strengthen accountability and investments that support the local implementation of comprehensive gender and reproductive justice policies
- Increase funding and support for community health providers, non-clinical community-based organizations, and other local initiatives that primarily serve low-income and vulnerable communities through responsive and locally tailored supports
- Ensure an accurate and complete 2020 Census count of hard-to-count populations to secure, protect and sustain funding for critical health programs in California.

HOUSING

2019 POLICY PRIORITIES

VISION

To ensure that residents in the San Joaquin Valley, especially the most vulnerable populations, have access to safe and affordable housing by promoting mixed-use developments, preserving existing affordable housing, and protecting residents through improved housing affordability, housing quality and home ownership opportunities.

CHALLENGE

The San Joaquin Valley contains agricultural land that provides livelihoods for many residents, contributes tens of billions of dollars a year to the region's economy, and provides food for the nation. Yet, in this land of abundance, more than 70% of low-income residents — those earning less than 30% of the median income — pay 50% or more of their income on rent or mortgages.^{xi} Historical and persistent exclusionary zoning and housing practices have exacerbated racial and economic segregation and perpetuated racially concentrated areas of poverty.

PATHWAY

To address these housing disparities, we stand united in our call to:

- Actively address segregation by securing true housing choice through incentivizing development in growth areas to facilitate and incorporate housing opportunities for all income levels
- Support policies and investments that produce new affordable housing, preserve existing affordable housing, and protect residents for improved housing affordability, housing quality and home ownership opportunities
- Support the creation of community land trusts to secure in perpetuity the affordability of housing whose construction or preservation is subsidized with public or philanthropic resources, including public land
- Secure the conversion of public lands for public good through land value recapture that puts in place long-term ground leases that ensure long-term community control
- Enforce proactive rental housing inspection rules and tenant protections, including standard registry list of all rental units, a baseline inspection of all rental properties, and just cause eviction
- Preserve existing housing stock — especially mobile home parks — and providing means for low-income homeowners to repair or replace their homes
- Advocate for enforcement of a strong Community Reinvestment Act that promotes equitable lending to low-income communities of color and rural markets.
- Advocate for policies and regulations, and enforcement of standards that ensure state and federal funds are adequately allocated for housing projects in rural and farmworker communities by creating set asides within programs like the AHSC Program, redefining density so it works for these communities, etc.
- Support enforcement, investment in and implementation of and strengthening of policies that incorporate public engagement requirements and that prioritize the engagement of underserved communities for jurisdictions to satisfy in order to move housing development and industrial projects forward
- Recognize that the answer to homelessness is a home by prioritizing the development of permanent housing in line with services, removing barriers to housing for those re-entering the community after incarceration, and by calling for an end to policies that criminalize homelessness.

EDUCATION

2019 POLICY PRIORITIES

VISION

To achieve equity both in the active engagement of parents in the development of Local Control Accountability Plans (LCAP) and in their participation in the implementation of plan provisions on school campuses.

CHALLENGE

The Central Valley is home to just over a 10th of California's public-school students. Within this large population of more than 800,000, more than two-thirds (67%) lack proficiency by third grade in English Language Arts,^{xii} and only one-in-five (21%) are proficient in math by fifth grade.^{xiii} The Central Valley also exhibits an average rate of expulsion of 2.25 per every 1,000 students that is double the statewide average of one per every 1,000 students.^{xiv} Among the class of 2015, one in 10 (10.8%) San Joaquin Valley students failed to graduate alongside their high school classmates.^{xv}

PATHWAY

To address these educational disparities, we stand united in our call to:

- Increase investments in quality early childhood supports and education programs that are culturally and linguistically appropriate and designed to meet the needs of vulnerable and underserved communities
- Support increased investments in locally informed and culturally competent academic strategies that help place students on a path to achieving proficiency and maintaining proficiency by the third grade
- Support investments in partnerships and programs that provide students with access to high-quality opportunities that enhance their academic programs through after-school programs, arts, music, sports, access to healthy food and safe drinking water
- Strengthen teacher preparation programs, professional development, curriculum and supports for district and school staff to help ensure the implementation of policies and practices that are designed to promote inclusivity and that honor diversity in all its forms
- Ensure that there is alignment between teacher preparation programs and on-the-job training to equip teachers with the tools to implement restorative, cultural and trauma-informed disciplinary practices and the delivery of culturally competent curriculum and instructional practices
- Decriminalize school campuses and implement restorative justice practices and trauma-informed care to create welcoming schools that foster strong community engagement
- Invest in professional development to train teachers to incorporate information on healthy relationships and dating abuse into the school curriculum as required by the Healthy Youth Act, as well as healthy living practices as required by the Local School Wellness Policy
- Encourage investments in adult education and training to build a sustainable workforce that includes supports for community-based re-entry programs

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

2019 POLICY PRIORITIES

VISION

Increase local accountability through meaningful and proactive community engagement in decision-making to improve regional health, quality of life, access to drinking water, clean air, and promote more climate resilient and ecological farming practices

CHALLENGE

The 2018 update of the CalEnviroScreen 3.0 report^{xvi} demonstrates that nearly 4 million residents living in the San Joaquin Valley are regularly exposed to multiple hazardous contaminants including unsafe drinking water, pesticide exposure and air pollution.^{xvii} Any proposed solution must be accompanied by adequate funding, enforceable policies and meaningful engagement of affected communities.

PATHWAYS

To address these environmental disparities, we stand united in our call to:

- Promote government agencies' investment in and raised public awareness around the need for access to safe and affordable drinking water for environmental justice communities, including those reliant on private wells
- Support agency enhancement of the water management data collection systems to improve monitoring and management of safe drinking water, sanitation, wastewater, small water systems and private wells
- Promote the shift of agencies' use of public funds and subsidies away from high polluting biomass industry and toward more sustainable, large-scale agricultural practices
- Raise community awareness regarding the need to strengthen protections and encourage stronger regulations that secure buffer zones around schools and residences, and that provide active public notice on applications for new or expansion of high pollution sources including oil and gas, dairies and industrial facilities
- Ensure that California's efforts to reduce greenhouse gases are equitably implemented and enforced and do not exacerbate air quality issues or adverse effects of climate change in the Central Valley, and that they reflect meaningful investments to improve conditions and infrastructure in our region
- Support agency, philanthropic and private sustainable investment in technical assistance and incentives that promote the widespread adoption of child-safe, ecological farming practices that stimulate soil health, protect air and water quality, and validate the resilience of Central Valley farms in the face of climate change
- Quickly phase out the most hazardous, drift-prone and outdated agricultural pesticides in use in California, including organophosphates and fumigant pesticides. Immediately ban the brain-harming pesticide chlorpyrifos and the carcinogenic fumigant pesticide 1,3-dichloropropene. Include pesticide and fertilizer emissions in all climate-related plans to reduce toxic air contaminants, greenhouse gas emissions and co-pollutants
- Promote the adoption of policies and regulations that uphold the public's right to know about nearby pesticide applications.

LAND USE AND PLANNING

2019 POLICY PRIORITIES

VISION

To secure the adoption of the SJVHF Land Use and Planning policy priorities among local, regional and statewide decision-makers to ensure that residents in the San Joaquin Valley are given equitable priority in the allocation and distribution of state dollars.

CHALLENGE

By 2050, the San Joaquin Valley is projected to be home to a 10th of California's population.^{xviii} However, historically poor land use and disinvestment in existing communities have resulted in widespread urbanization of farmland, habitat and other green space; disproportionate exposure to and health impacts from pollution-causing land uses in disadvantaged communities; a lack of safe places for physical activity; and a dearth of decent and affordable housing. Land-use decisions are one of the primary reasons that the strongest predictor of a person's lifespan and quality of life is his or her zip code.

PATHWAY

To address these disparities in land use and development, we stand united in our call to:

- Raise community awareness and advocate with agencies, promote prioritization of holistic, sustainable and mixed-use communities with access to active and public transportation infrastructure and amenities, complete streets, and require that industry not be intermixed with residential through defined land use and or economic development incentives
- Promote private and agency investment without displacement by requiring strong anti-displacement and community benefits policies and programs, demanding meaningful public engagement requirements, the adoption and enforcement of strong tenant protection policies, and incentivizing inclusionary housing policies to create mixed-income neighborhoods
- Educate to encourage and ensure that city- and county-level general plans understand the importance of directing new development into existing communities (including disadvantaged communities) instead of new towns, and that regional transportation investments in each county's RTP/SCS are selected accordingly
- Educate to encourage and ensure that zoning promotes infill development and allows for alternative or non-traditional forms of housing, including ADUs and smaller housing units
- Support the conservation of agricultural land and natural habitat to promote access to green space, and that help mitigate the environmental impacts of development
- Promote mitigation of environmental impacts of projects that consume habitat, agricultural land or other open space, with mitigation ratios of at least 1:1 for farmland and higher ratios as appropriate for habitat
- Secure the adoption of school district policies that support the use of public-school playgrounds for neighborhood use
- Educate agencies to adopt policies and raise public awareness around ensuring public lands so they will be conveyed through long-term ground leases that secure long-term community control of these scarce resources rather than being sold.

IMMIGRATION

ⁱ [The California Department of Justice's Review of Immigration Detention in California.](https://oag.ca.gov/sites/all/files/agweb/pdfs/publications/immigration-detention-2019.pdf)

ⁱⁱ [Human Rights Watch \(2017\) "I still need you": The detention and deportation of Californian parents](#)

ⁱⁱⁱ [ibid](#)

^{iv} [The California Coalition for Universal Representation \(2016\) California's due process crisis: Access to legal counsel for detained immigrants](#)

^v [ibid](#)

^{vi} [ibid](#)

^{vii} [CA Institute for Rural Studies \(2018\) An update on ICE audits in the San Joaquin Valley](#)

HEALTH

^{viii} [UC Health \(2018\) Improving health care access in the San Joaquin Valley: A regional approach through collaboration and innovation.](#)

^{ix} [California Budget & Policy Center \(2016\) Medi-Cal reaches millions of people across California, but faces an uncertain future](#)

^x [CA Future Health Workforce Commission \(2019\) Meeting the demand for health: Final Report of the CA Future Health Workforce Commission](#)

HOUSING

^{xi} U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Planning Development and Research, Summary of Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data, <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/cp.html#2006-2013>

EDUCATION

^{xii} [Kidsdata.org \(2016\) Students meeting or exceeding grade-level standard in English Language Arts \(CAASPP\), by grade level](#)

^{xiii} [Kidsdata.org \(2016\) Students Meeting or Exceeding Grade-Level Standard in Mathematics \(CAASPP\), by Grade Level](#)

^{xiv} [Kidsdata.org \(2015\) Students Expelled from School](#)

^{xv} [Kidsdata.org \(2015\) Students Not Completing High School](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

^{xvi} [Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment \(2018\) CalEnviroScreen 3.0](#)

^{xvii} [Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment \(2018\) CalEnviroScreen 3.0: June 2018 Update Statewide Results](#)

LAND USE AND PLANNING

^{xviii} [The California Economic Forecast \(2017\) California County-Level Economic Forecast 2017-2050](#)