



Action Plan For Supporting Immigrants in our Communities Indivisible Greater Jenkintown

Montgomery County is home to 95,000 individuals born elsewhere, accounting for 11% of the population. While many immigrants from Latin America are clustered in Norristown and the surrounding area, foreign-born residents coming from all over the globe, including significant populations from Asia, Southeast Asia, and Africa, live and work in every township and borough of the county.

The impact of ICE activity and detentions has torn apart families. In recent weeks, at least 20 residents have been detained. In some cases, they are the sole breadwinners of their families, meaning local families can not put food on their tables. Across the communities, people are afraid to leave their homes for work, doctors' appointments, and daily life. They, too, are suffering.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

We've compiled a list of actions we can take as neighbors, friends, and supporters to make a positive difference. No one can do everything, but each of us can do something. We've organized response efforts along four main categories: **Political Advocacy, Direct Service, Rapid Response, and Mutual Aid.**

1. Advocacy

The [Pennsylvania Immigrant Coalition](#) provides this [Messaging Guide](#) for use in advocating for immigrants. Please review before addressing any public meetings. A report on the positive impact of immigrants, both nationally and in Pennsylvania, is available [here](#).

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania: Join the [Pennsylvania Immigration Coalition \(PIC\)](#) in telling Governor Shapiro to say "No" to collaboration with ICE. [Contact information and a sample letter are available here.](#)

PA Democratic House Reps have sponsored a [bill to prohibit ICE and other law enforcement officers from wearing Masks while carrying out their duties](#). Known as the Officer Visibility Act, the bill is sponsored by Montgomery County State Rep. Joe Webster and has the support of most area Democrats. Please call your state rep and ask them to support the Officer Visibility Act when it comes up for a vote.

Individual Townships and Boroughs. Each township and borough needs to enact policies that prevent township employees (especially police departments) from cooperating with ICE. [For more information on how you can work in your local community, click here.](#)

School Districts: Quick Guide: Does Your School Have an ICE Policy? (Pennsylvania)

Contact your local school district to urge them to protect students and families from unlawful ICE actions. [A toolkit is here.](#)

Montgomery County. Montgomery County leaders are in the process of adopting policies to prevent government employees and officials from cooperating with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). They have already stopped the County Jail from detaining people for ICE after they have paid bail, refused to allow county employees to be deputized to ICE, and are prohibiting employees from sharing information beyond what is required by law. We would like to thank them for their work and encourage them to continue. We are calling on Commissioners to refine the language of their policies, making them more comprehensive, and to adopt these policies as official resolutions to provide permanence and accountability. In particular, we are advocating for a policy that says that the county will not rent space to ICE, will not join 287(g) (the federal law that allows for local law enforcement to be deputized to ICE) and prohibits the county from storing and sharing information about immigration status that is collected for purposes of receiving county benefits and services.

Legal Services. Many immigrant-focused organizations are seeking low-cost or pro bono lawyers who are currently accepting new clients. If you know any lawyers willing to take on immigration or family law cases for low or no cost, or are eager to call offices to see who will, please add them to [this](#) list.

Patronizing Immigrant Businesses. Immigrant-owned businesses could greatly benefit from our support as they face numerous operational challenges at this time. When shopping or dining out, consider supporting a local immigrant-owned small business. Share your favorite immigrant-owned small business or restaurant [here](#) so others can enjoy and support them as well.

2. Direct Service

Montgo Immigrant Resource Action is a loosely organized group of people working to provide direct service (rides to doctors or court dates, childcare, shopping, financial support, advocacy, etc). If you would like to be added to the MIRA Signal chat, email Montcowatch@gmail.com.

3. Rapid Response

You can be helpful and have rights as an observer of an ICE raid or arrest.

Rapid Response is activated when ICE (or rumors of ICE) are present in any community in Montgomery County. Rapid Response is a non-violent, non-interventionist effort to monitor, track, observe, and provide immediate assistance to those impacted by ICE in our communities. This is PEACEFUL and NON-VIOLENT action. Local Rapid Response Networks have been formed in Ambler, Abington/Cheltenham, Lansdale, Souderton, Phoenixville, and Norristown. If you would like to be connected, please contact montcowatch@gmail.com.

To report a suspected ICE action: Montco Watch Tipline: 267-279-9207

[Montco Tipline Graphic](#)

[SEPA \(South East PA Counties\) Tiplines Graphic](#)

How to Identify/Respond to Suspected ICE Activity

[Identify](#)

[Respond](#)

Review a YouTube video [HERE](#)

Review a comprehensive slide show [HERE](#)

General information about ICE [HERE](#)

ICE Detainee Locator [HERE](#)

4. Mutual Aid/Financial Support

The Woori Center (Landsdale) provides direct support for the Asian Community. [DONATE HERE](#)

CCATE (Cultural Center for Arts, Work, and Education in Norristown) provides a variety of services and is establishing a legal defense fund. [DONATE HERE](#)

Unides Para Servir Norristown provides direct support to families impacted by ICE Raids and the current environment. Donate through Venmo to [@unidesparaservirnorrictown](#)

Kate's Casa supports recently arrived immigrant families in the region by providing essential services, including housing assistance, bill relief, ESL classes, legal fee coverage, and cultural events. Currently, they are also assisting families impacted by ICE. [Donate here](#)

Project Libertad is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that empowers newcomer immigrant youth and their families by providing essential, youth-led, and youth-centered legal and social services. Learn more [here](#).

The Literacy Council of Norristown offers [free classes for English language learners](#) of all backgrounds.

[CAIR Philadelphia \(Council on American-Islamic Relations\)](#) is an advocacy and service organization that provides support to the Muslim and Arab communities, including “Know Your Rights” training and advocacy for immigrant populations.

Unides Para Servir is also collecting gift cards to give directly to families. They have requested cards from **Aldi's**, **Walmart**, and **Visa** (denominations between \$20 and \$50.) Cards can be dropped off at **Unides** (335 W Marshall St, Norristown), **Recycle, Read Repeat Book Store** (208 Cherry St, Norristown), or at the [Abington Neighborhood Protests](#) (final Thursday of the month).

A list of organizations serving immigrant communities, organized by county, is available from the PIC [here](#).

To stay connected

[Indivisible of Greater Jenkintown](#)

[Montco PA and Friends Indivisible](#)

[Community for Change Montgomery County](#)

You can stay up to date on current immigration law changes using this [immigration litigation tracker](#).