

WEST | IAF SOUTHWEST

RECENT VICTORIES

The **West Southwest IAF (W/SWIAF)** is affiliated with the **Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF)**, the first and largest network of multi-faith, broad-based citizen organizations, which has seven decades of experience winning tough battles on wages, long-term job training, affordable housing, healthcare affordability, education, immigration rights and more in the US and abroad. West / Southwest IAF's 31 affiliates are in the West, Southwest & Midwest United States (TX, LA, AZ, NV, CA, CO, IA, NE, MT, MI, NM, OK, OR, WA), Australia and Canada.

In Fall 2018 alone, 6,470 local leaders turned out for nonpartisan accountability assemblies with Governors, US Congressional representatives, state legislators and local elected officials to secure public commitments around healthcare, housing, workforce development, living wages, community safety, immigrant rights and more. Through commitments leveraged in prior assemblies, organizations succeeded in moving the needle in the following areas:

Living Wages & Workforce Development



Texas IAF (COPS/Metro & Austin Interfaith) lifted the municipal wage floor to \$15 /hour for municipal employees in Austin and San Antonio; and of Bexar County. Austin leaders successfully defended the living wage standard for employees of all corporations receiving public subsidies from the City.

After democratizing the state Industrial Tax Exemption Program, by educating and engaging a broad constituency, **Together Louisiana** persuaded the East Baton Rouge school board and city council to deny millions of dollars in property tax exemptions to ExxonMobil, resulting in \$6 Million in new funding

for school and government services -- and salary increases for teachers, bus drivers and more.

West / Southwest IAF Labor Market Intermediaries -- including Project QUEST, Capital IDEA (Austin & Houston), Skill QUEST, VIDA and ARRIBA -- leverage over \$16 Million from local, state, and federal sources per year. Collectively, they moved 16,000+ low-income persons into jobs that pay a family wage with benefits and a career path in TX, AZ, IA, MS and LA.

Health Affordability

One LA-IAF in California ensured the provision of healthcare services for 146,000 low-income, undocumented residents of Los Angeles County. In addition, leaders laid the groundwork for the provision of integrated mental healthcare services

OTOC, with allies, helped Get Out the Vote to pass Medicaid Expansion for 90,000 low-income Nebraskans. Voters in Omaha (Douglas and Sarpy Counties) delivered more than a third of the total statewide vote.

Immigration



In North Texas, **Dallas Area Interfaith** leveraged the support of three police departments for the acceptance of Catholic church issued parish ID cards. 10,000 immigrants have accessed parish identification cards in 2018 alone. VICE recently covered their effort.

Valley Interfaith delivered two Congressional signers for the DACA discharge petition. The **Texas IAF** sent tens of thousands of postcards to US congressional reps in support of protections for DACA recipients. Press conferences in San Antonio, TX; the Rio Grande Valley, TX; and Houston, TX drew hundreds of supporters while immigration events in Arizona, Nevada and California drew more.

Housing Affordability

In one of the wealthiest counties in California, **Marin Organizing Committee** passed a 'Just Cause' Eviction Ordinance protecting tenants from sudden eviction, while preserving the rights of landlords to remove problematic tenants. Prior to this, **MOC** shepherded a deal between Canal neighborhood tenants who initially faced a sudden 45% hike in their rent. The time period for the increase was extended from 2 to 16 months to give families time to plan.



COPS/Metro, in coordination with the Catholic Archbishop (photo above), persuaded the City of San Antonio to provide \$1 Million in property tax abatement for fixed- and low-income homeowners in rapidly gentrifying neighborhoods. This is one piece of a larger displacement prevention plan.

Safety in Schools & Neighborhoods



TMO leveraged the support of Chief Art Acevedo to make Houston the second largest city in the US to sign onto the '**Do Not Stand Idly By**' campaign for gun safety. The first major city was Los Angeles, due to efforts by **One LA-IAF**.

COPS/Metro in San Antonio secured the safety of the playground at Beacon Hill Academy by persuading the school district to demolish a crumbling building that made it unusable.

AMOS leaders in Des Moines, Iowa leveraged \$1 Million in private funding for the establishment of a state-of-the-art skate park they designed to provide recreational spaces for skateboarding youth.