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SUPERVISOR SARMIENTO EXPANDS ASSISTANCE TO ORANGE COUNTY IMMIGRANT FAMILIES

*SAFE Program provides support for 2nd District families impacted
by the Federal immigration crackdown.*

Santa Ana, Calif. (October 16, 2025) – The ongoing federal immigration crackdown and a recent Supreme Court decision allowing targeted enforcement based on race, ethnicity, and language have intensified fear among immigrant communities in central Orange County.

“The fear is palpable, and the economic impacts to the entire community can be felt. When parents cannot work to support their families, children miss school out of fear, and local businesses struggle to survive, the entire community suffers,” said Supervisor Vicente Sarmiento. “We cannot stand by silently. It is our duty to support those most affected by these unfair immigration policies and the harmful tactics used by this administration.”

In response to and in anticipation of the continued use of these terror tactics in the communities he represents, Supervisor Sarmiento announced the continued expansion of the multi-pronged [Safe Access to Food and Essentials program \(SAFE\)](#). Launched by his office earlier this year, the program connects families with critical resources, Know Your Rights Workshops, and serves as a liaison between school districts, nonprofits, consulates, and local service providers to help people navigate the complex immigration system. It also facilitates access to food, legal assistance, community empowerment, emergency rental support, and other vital services.

“We understood that just sharing resources wasn’t sufficient. Many families avoid traditional grocery stores out of fear of separation, and many have lost income due to enforcement actions. That’s why my office developed a comprehensive program.”

The program provides support to non-profits in the Second District, like the [United Across Borders Foundation](#), who provide groceries to families that need them. While we have partnered with organizations like United Across Borders for years, the way services are provided has had to change to better meet the evolving needs of these families.



“In partnership with philanthropic partners, our office dedicated \$500,000 to launch the [OC Immigrant and Refugee Liberty Fund](#) to support over 20 local organizations providing legal assistance and empowerment services to residents navigating the immigration system,” added Sarmiento.

The latest addition to the SAFE program is emergency rental assistance, designed to provide one-time payments to families on the brink of losing their housing due to loss of income as a result of immigration enforcement.

This new component of SAFE aims to prevent homelessness. Families facing eviction due to lost income from immigration enforcement can receive a one-time payment to stabilize their housing situation. Supervisor Sarmiento, Chair of the Commission to Address Homelessness, allocated \$50,000 to initiate this program, which will be managed by Latino Health Access, who operates the [Family Resource Center in Santa Ana](#).

“We know the suffering won’t end until these policies stop, and the contributions of the immigrant community are fully recognized,” Sarmiento added. “This is a marathon, not a sprint. Our commitment is to continue growing SAFE to meet the needs of our families.”

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Supervisor Vicente Sarmiento was elected to the Orange County Board of Supervisors in November 2022. He represents the Second District, which includes the city of Santa Ana and portions of Anaheim, Garden Grove, Orange, and Tustin. For additional information, visit <https://d2.ocgov.com/supervisor>.