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More Immigration News

<http://www.chirla.org/>

<http://www.usimmigrationsupport.org/visa-u.html>

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ICO Leaders join statewide rally in Sacramento to protest state budget cuts



steps where testimony was given on the impact of the proposed budget cuts.

ICO leaders then visited with State Assemblywoman Bonnie Lowenthal and State Senator Warren Furutani to advocate for preserving programming for youth and children. They also visited the offices of State Senators Jenny Oropeza, Roderick Wright and Alan Lowenthal.

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Fifteen ICO leaders traveled to Sacramento this past June to protest proposed budget cuts that would significantly affect programming for youth and children. They joined hundreds of PICO California Project affiliate leaders at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament for prayer and song, and then marched to the Capitol



Immigration Reform Focus of Joint Action in Los Angeles



ICO leaders traveled to Los Angeles in early June to join leaders from LA Voice and Orange County Congregation Community Organization (OCCC) to urge federal legislators to move on comprehensive immigration reform. The June 6 action was part of a coordinated statewide effort that included similar events in San Francisco, Fresno, San Bernardino and San Diego.

ICO leader Christopher boldly told his story about ICE agents raiding his home and detaining his entire family before deporting his brother. Christopher has lived in Long Beach since he was three years old, and he always thought he was a citizen. In fact, one year from graduating high school he found out that he is undocumented. Christopher wants the Dream Act to pass so that he might have a chance at a future here in Long Beach, which he calls home.

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ICO Launches Asset-Building Organizing Effort with San Francisco-Based EARN

ICO is an inaugural partner with San Francisco-based EARN to launch a grassroots organizing initiative to understand the obstacles to asset-building and financial literacy confronting the low-income residents of Long Beach.



ICO has helped local residents engage on issues ranging from housing, homelessness and – more recently -- foreclosure, health care reform, immigration reform and civic engagement, and other issues relevant to

their economic health and financial stability. To move from this work to broader issues of financial literacy and building assets is a logical next step for ICO member congregations and institutions. ICO leaders will work with EARN to discern obstacles to attaining and retaining financial assets, and to give low-income workers the power to create economic prosperity for their families for generations to come.

ICO's approach comprises six small house meetings through our member congregations, using the discussion at those meetings to inform a set of research visits with identified individuals and/or institutions, culminating in a larger community meeting to present the results of those research visits and set a course of future action.

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California Wellness Funds Long Beach Health Care Organizing Effort

The California Wellness Foundation recently awarded ICO a three-year, \$125,000 grant for community organizing and grassroots leadership development around improving health care and healthy outcomes in downtown, North and West Long Beach.

Specifically, ICO will use California Wellness support to create active health care action teams in underserved communities, expand our collaboration with local health care providers on community education efforts and strategies for improving access to health care, and launch annual campaigns targeting identified and achievable health care access priorities.

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Boeing Employees Community Fund Awards \$3000 Grant to ICO

In July, ICO received a \$3,000 grant from the Employees Community Fund of the Boeing Company. ICO was nominated for the grant by Boeing employee Brian Kaemingk, who visited the office and met with ICO Board Members to learn more about ICO's work.



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