



Frontline Response: A Leadership Roundtable for Nonprofits Stepping Up for their Communities

Follow-Up Report

Session developed in partnership with the Center for Nonprofit Management.

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Executive Summary

This roundtable explored the impacts of recent **ICE raids in Los Angeles**, focusing on the compounding challenges for immigrant families and the nonprofits serving them. Leaders emphasized the urgency of coordinated responses, sustainable funding, and community trust. Panelists included **Leticia Andueza (New Economics for Women)**, **Ambar Quintanilla (SD28)**, **Josue Muñoz (CD14)**, and **Sebastian Lozano (A54)**.

Key Insights

- **Community Impact:** Raids create widespread fear, economic disruption, and mental health strain.
- **Coordination Gaps:** Nonprofits lack centralized data systems and referral pathways.
- **Funding Limitations:** Nonprofits shoulder the bulk of response without adequate resources.
- **Trust & Outreach:** Trusted messengers and multilingual materials are vital.
- **Systemic Barriers:** Cuts in government funding and structural inequities leave gaps in support.

Recommendations

1. Strengthen rapid response networks (e.g., CHIRLA, CARECEN).
2. Develop centralized, real-time data hubs.
3. Secure private and philanthropic funding alongside government aid.
4. Train staff and community members on crisis response and rights awareness.
5. Prioritize mental health and asset protection services.

Closing Note

The session underscored that nonprofits are **first responders** during enforcement-driven crises but cannot act alone. Stronger coordination, trust-building, and equitable funding partnerships are critical to sustaining community resilience.

Live Notes

Context & History

- **Past Precedent:** Leticia recalled that during the 2008–2009 ICE raids, many mixed-status and undocumented families were left confused about how to meet basic needs. Nonprofit partners quickly mobilized to host workshops and provide support.
- **Current Scale:** As of August 11, more than **60,000 people are in detention centers nationwide** (Ambar). Raids are disproportionately concentrated in areas with large Latino populations.

Current Frontline Observations

- **Fear & Economic Disruption:**
 - Communities in the 54th district have been heavily impacted, with widespread fear and a “destruction of commerce” that will have long-lasting effects (Sebastian).
 - Local vendors often abandon goods when raids occur, raising questions about asset protection.
 - Some Head Start programs report families avoiding public spaces entirely, shifting recruitment online (Joseph Boras).
- **Community Impacts:**
 - Youth, including refugees and shelter residents, face reduced access to resources they rely on for stability (Katrina Williams).
 - Families disengage from programming due to fear of enforcement (Jocelyn Castillo).
 - Parents Anonymous reports increased calls from children and parents experiencing fear and stress.

Gaps & Challenges Identified

- **Coordination & Communication:**
 - Nonprofits often lack real-time data sharing and clear coordination with government agencies (Leticia, Katrina, John).
 - The abundance of information can lead to confusion and delays in response.
- **Funding & Resources:**
 - Smaller nonprofits shoulder much of the burden but lack adequate funding (Katrina, Sebastian).
 - Government funding is limited; a recent \$160M allocation is already stretched thin due to other crises like the LA wildfires (Ambar).
 - Budget cuts have reduced support for helplines and mental health services (Parents Anonymous).
- **Trust & Safety:**

- “Know Your Rights” workshops feel ineffective when rights are not respected in practice (Jocelyn).
- Clients fear interacting with nonprofits due to immigration enforcement concerns.
- Some agents refuse to identify themselves, creating additional fear and confusion.

Promising Practices & Existing Efforts

- **Rapid Response Networks:** Informal networks led by groups like **CHIRLA** and **CARECEN** provide timely community support. Community members are encouraged to connect with these networks (Sebastian, Alba).
- **Coalitions:** The **Street Vending Coalition**, formed by four nonprofits without initial funding, has grown into a reliable resource for vendors navigating raids.
- **Local Government Response:** During past emergencies, business centers were set up to assist small businesses impacted by curfews and disruptions (Eric Morgan).
- **Community Advocacy:** Local businesses like **Picaresca Café in Boyle Heights** have sustained operations by standing with their community and receiving reciprocal support (Josue).

Recommendations Moving Forward

1. **Strengthen Coordination**
 - Create centralized information hubs to share data between nonprofits, government, and community partners (John).
 - Develop real-time data systems to track impacts and responses (Leticia, Katrina).
2. **Support Nonprofits as First Responders**
 - Funnel government and philanthropic funding directly to nonprofits who are positioned to act quickly (Katrina, Sebastian).
 - Encourage partnerships between nonprofits with resources and those with actionable community programs.
3. **Expand Training & Preparedness**
 - Increase staff training to respond effectively during raids and emergencies (Leticia).
 - Continue “Know Your Rights” trainings to prepare communities for critical situations, even if enforcement undermines protections (Isela).
4. **Cross-Sector Engagement**
 - Involve the business and financial sectors as active partners in community response (Anonymous).
 - Explore collaborative funding cycles that bring together nonprofit, government, for-profit, and faith-based organizations (Katrina).
5. **Policy & Advocacy**
 - Support legislation requiring federal agents to identify themselves (Ambar).
 - Advance pathways to citizenship as a core long-term solution (Anonymous).
6. **Community Mental Health & Stability**

- Increase funding for mental health services and referrals for families experiencing trauma (Parents Anonymous).
- Provide resources for families considering self-deportation, including asset protection and reintegration support abroad (Alba).

Closing Notes

- **Collaboration is Essential:** Nonprofits, elected officials, philanthropy, and local government must work together to create timely, coordinated responses.
- **Next Steps:** Participants recommended hosting a **follow-up summit** that brings together more community stakeholders and members for collective planning (Ambar).

Formal Analysis

Introduction

In response to recent **ICE raids in Los Angeles**, nonprofit leaders, government representatives, and community stakeholders convened for a facilitated roundtable discussion on the **compounding impacts of immigration enforcement** on local communities.

Participants shared real-time experiences, identified systemic gaps, and explored **collaborative strategies** to support affected individuals and families. The session emphasized the **critical role of nonprofits** as first responders during crises, the urgent need for stronger partnerships, and the importance of creating a sustainable, coordinated safety net.

Key Themes and Insights

Heightened Fear and Economic Disruption

Participants reported widespread **fear, instability, and financial hardship** among immigrant communities:

- **Community Impact:** Businesses have closed, street vendors abandon materials, and families avoid public spaces.
- **Displacement Effects:** ICE activity has led to declining program engagement, decreased commerce, and increased housing insecurity.
- **Mental Health Strain:** Nonprofits are fielding calls from families and children experiencing heightened anxiety due to enforcement activities.

Takeaway: Any future response strategy must prioritize **mental health resources, financial stabilization, and rapid information-sharing**.

Gaps in Coordination and Resource Distribution

Across organizations, a recurring challenge was the **lack of centralized communication** and coordinated action:

- Requests for resources often face **delays of days or weeks** due to unclear referral pathways.
- Information about services, funding, and legal rights remains fragmented.
- Nonprofits expressed frustration that they are expected to handle frontline response **without sufficient funding or infrastructure**.

Takeaway: There is an urgent need for **centralized data systems, resource directories, and unified communication channels** to better coordinate relief and advocacy.

Barriers to Funding and Sustainability

Several participants noted that nonprofits are carrying the **majority of the response work** but lack sustainable funding to meet growing needs:

- Federal and state funding remains limited and inconsistent, compounded by budget cuts and competing priorities.
- Private philanthropy and business-sector participation are **underutilized opportunities**.
- There's a pressing need to **diversify funding sources** to ensure nonprofits can remain agile during enforcement-driven crises.

Takeaway: A sustainable solution will require **multi-sector partnerships** — including government, philanthropy, and financial institutions — to stabilize nonprofit operations.

Community Trust and Information Sharing

Mistrust of institutions, particularly within undocumented and mixed-status communities, remains a significant barrier:

- Families often avoid seeking assistance out of fear of exposing personal information.
- Participants emphasized the importance of **trusted messengers** — nonprofits, faith-based leaders, and community advocates — to relay accurate information.
- Effective response requires leveraging **existing relationships** and **community-led communication networks**.

Takeaway: Building **trust before crises occur** is essential. Investing in trusted networks and multilingual outreach ensures faster, more effective community engagement.

Immediate Needs and Recommendations

Several practical strategies and next steps emerged during the discussion:

- **Rapid Response Networks:** Connect with existing networks to mobilize immediate, coordinated responses.
- **Training & Preparedness:** Implement “**Know Your Rights**” trainings and staff readiness exercises to ensure nonprofit personnel can respond quickly and effectively.
- **Data Centralization:** Establish shared systems to gather and distribute **real-time data** on enforcement activity, available services, and funding resources.
- **Engage Diverse Sectors:** Involve **banks, funders, and private employers** in solutions to address economic disruption and resource shortages.
- **Mental Health Support:** Expand community-based mental health services to address trauma caused by displacement and fear.
- **Asset Protection & Long-Term Stability:** Develop financial safety plans for families considering relocation or deportation.

Actionable Next Steps

1. **Create a centralized resource hub** for nonprofits to share real-time information, legal referrals, and funding opportunities.
2. **Strengthen rapid response coalitions** by establishing predefined partnership agreements among nonprofits, funders, and local officials.
3. **Advocate for equitable funding streams** and build relationships with private philanthropy to supplement limited government resources.
4. **Develop multilingual, community-centered outreach campaigns** to counter misinformation and rebuild trust.
5. **Host a follow-up summit** with a broader set of stakeholders — including financial institutions, funders, and directly impacted community members — to align on collaborative solutions.

Closing Reflection

This roundtable reinforced the **urgent need for collective action** as nonprofits navigate the compounding challenges of immigration enforcement, housing insecurity, and economic instability. Participants highlighted the importance of **collaboration, preparedness, and trust** in strengthening the nonprofit safety net.

By working together — across organizations, sectors, and communities — stakeholders can build a more **coordinated, resilient, and equitable response framework** that meets the needs of those most impacted.