

## Case Study (Revised for 6/28/17)

*Familias Unidas por Justicia*, a membership team of *Somos Un Pueblo Unido* made up of 50 immigrant families in Farmington, New Mexico, is currently engaged in a five-year campaign to mitigate the adverse effects of several policies and practices that engage local law enforcement, jail and court officials, and probation officers with Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE) agents in the execution of federal immigration laws.

*Familias* is partnering with Sexual Assault Services and Engaging Latinos for Communities for Education (ENLACE) to explore how ending or restricting the collaboration between local law enforcement agencies and ICE could potentially impact the economic security, health and wellbeing of immigrant workers and their children in New Mexico.

San Juan is one of the few non-border counties to have such a close working relationship with ICE, whose constant presence greatly affects the daily educational, financial, and health decisions of immigrants and their families. While many local jurisdictions have proactively enacted a range of “sanctuary” policies restricting cooperation with ICE in enforcing federal civil immigration laws, the sheriff’s office, the jail, and the municipal and magistrate courts in San Juan County have welcomed ICE, collaborate with its resident federal agent, and in some cases, divert local funds and other resources to support its efforts.

The conditions (health determinants) we are considering are:

- Short and long-term economic security
- Safety of families and children (including public safety)
- Access to health and other essential services by immigrants families

Policies regarding local law enforcement collaboration with ICE could evolve across the state as a result of President Trump’s January 25th executive order on interior immigration enforcement. This executive order threatens a broad withdrawal of federal funds from local jurisdictions that exercise their constitutional authority to determine how they use local resources in implementing federal law enforcement schemes. It also seeks to publicly shame and intimidate local governments that choose not to help immigration agents identify and deport immigrant families. Although the executive order is being challenged in federal court, and although there is a temporary restraining order in place to impede its immediate implementation, the federal government is still moving to take Department of Justice law enforcement grants away from localities that do not turn in their residents to ICE. It is also ramping up other strategies to identify and detain immigrant families, including increased collaboration with probation officers and low-level court personnel. Meanwhile, the Trump administration is seeking funding to add another 1,000 ICE agents, Congressional members are threatening broad changes to federal immigration laws, and some states are moving to pass laws prohibiting local jurisdictions from restricting cooperation with ICE.

This HIA can help us assess the impact of this collaboration on immigrant families to inform future efforts to restrict cooperation in the county and also encourage more community leaders, allies, and government officials to modify such policies. It could also help educate legislators and policy makers at the state level about the bearing of their decisions to pass or reverse policies that restrict local law enforcement cooperation with ICE.

