



# Organizing Tips

This information comes from a variety of sources across the country and local organizations! Information from We Keep Us Safe: El Pueblo Unido Contra ICE is always meant to be guidelines to help the community. We cannot tell everyone what works for their community so this information is intended to be adaptable.

## Spread the word

- Assemble whistle kits using the documents provided [here](#) and distribute them however you are comfortable.
- Canvass locally! Please see our canvassing tips document [here](#) before hitting the streets.
- Take any relevant trainings you can! Check out the training calendar on our website to see our public training opportunities.

## Build Community

- The community defense groups form patrols and a network to respond to ICE raids, but community is essential to endure and resist all aspects of authoritarianism. You won't be dealing with ICE daily, but you will be dealing with the effects of fascism daily.
  - Mutual aid and a strong sense of community should be a focus of your group as well
  - We cannot do it alone. We are safer and stronger together.
- Jump in with friends who live nearby! Talk about what worries you, how to be there for each other, and what you visualize as a response to ICE in your area.
- Make connections with people in your area through any available and safe outreach method available to you.
- Have in person gatherings that include food and time to get to know each other before talking about ICE response.
- Listen to every community member's ideas and build off of them as a group. Every community is different and all ideas have potential. We are all working together, and the efforts should reflect that.
  - Let other leaders arise, we need as many leaders as possible to support each other
- Come up with creative ideas for everyone to contribute. Not everyone is able bodied, capable of patrolling regularly, or willing/able to take the risk of having their face known. There are many potential roles and tasks that can be done.
  - Keep public facing mutual aid roles separate from rapid response roles to protect high risk individuals
    - There are many behind the scenes mutual aid tasks that people who do rapid response can participate in
- Find courage, inspiration, and strength in each other.

## Building a community defense group

- Get trained on identifying ICE and how to respond.

- Use your knowledge and training to train others in your community.
- Practice so that you can respond more easily in real time. These situations are stressful and scary! Be kind to yourself and prepare as well as you can.
- There's lots of other topics to get trained on! See what the community wants to learn and try to make it happen!
- Decide what kind of response you would like to organize, and the response that you are realistically capable of right now.
  - In neighborhoods around the country, they have found that a 5-7 minute response time to a raid is required before ICE is already gone.
  - Are there vulnerable locations or events to prioritize?
  - What do the impacted people in your community want you to do?
  - There is still value in being too late to prevent or document the raid.
    - Make sure CORRN was contacted
    - Make note of the location of the raid
    - Speak to witnesses
    - Canvass the block with resources. Suggested resources include:
      - Our [immigration resources](#)
      - Phone number for CORRN
      - Extra whistle/ICE Ready kits
- Establish ideal protocols for an ICE sighting, for example:
  - Who can you call on to respond in the moment?
  - How should people respond to a raid?
  - What materials do you want to use after a raid?
- How will you identify yourself to the members of the community so they don't think you are ICE and are scared of you?
- Put yourself and friends to work! This can be networking, creating a communication system, planning local events/get togethers, being on the street patrolling or verifying sightings...

### **Suggestions for a communication system**

- Use an encrypted messaging app. WhatsApp is less secure than Signal, but both are encrypted. [Here](#) is an article about using Signal for activism.
- Practice good cyber security to protect each other.
- Create separate group chats for your other communication needs.
- [Here](#) is our folder with information about Signal groups including security, vetting, and how to structure different types of groups.
- Create a group chat that is only to be used to report possible local ICE sightings. Test the system before you really need it!
  - Set messages to go to administrators.
  - Have people send SALUTE information and photos (if possible) if they believe they see an ICE raid.
  - The available admin(s) can decide if they agree it's ICE.
  - Admins then send a message to everyone in the chat. This helps to further reduce false alarms and prevent burnout without adding much time to the alert being sent out!
- Layer digital communication with other forms of communication
- Be very mindful of miscommunication and misinformation! Other cities emphasize how rigorous they are when sharing information to prevent

unnecessary fear and increase trust in each other. See our Misinformation document [here](#).