

Organizing tips

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 that you can!

Build Community

- 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.
- 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.
- While responding to ICE raids is likely the focus of your community group, many other things are needed to resist 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 is essential!
- Find courage, inspiration, and strength in each other.

Building a community defense group

- Get trained on identifying ICE and how to respond.
 - Invite others to trainings and point them towards organizations that are providing these types of trainings and immigration activism. View

our calendar [here](#).

- 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.
- Decide what kind of impact you want to make, and the impact that you are realistically capable of right now.
 - In Chicago neighborhoods, they have found that a 5-7 minute response time to a raid is required before ICE is already gone.
 - Are there vulnerable locations like schools or food pantries in the neighborhood?
 - There is still value in being too late to prevent or document the raid. You can make sure CORRN was contacted, make note of the location of the raid with a sign on the street and/or in your personal records, speak to witnesses, and canvass the block with resources. Suggested resources include our [immigration resources](#), the phone number for CORRN, We Keep Us Safe website, extra whistle kits, and information about your community defense group.
- Establish ideal protocols.
 - For example, who can you call on to respond in the moment? At what point do you call CORRN? What materials do you want to use after a raid?
- 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...
- Avoid posting on social media to protect yourselves, your members, the people being targeted, and potential misinformation.
 - You can send CORRN pictures, and they will post them online if the raid is confirmed. This will insulate yourself from potential retribution.
 - Allowing yourself and your group to continue to help your community is far more important and impactful than public attention.
 - Back up information about encounters securely rather than publicly, including written notes from people on the scene.

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.

- 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!
- Create separate group chats for your other communication needs.