



Survey Findings

How Contra Costa Nonprofits are Protecting Immigrant Clients and Staff



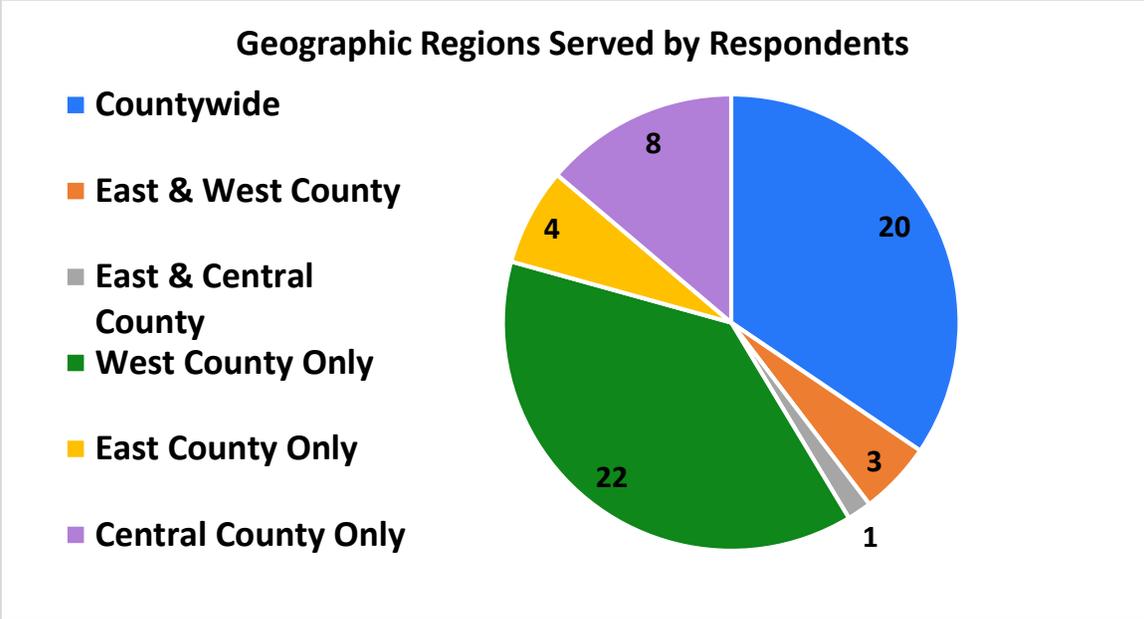
March 2017

In March 2017, the Ensuring Opportunity campaign surveyed nonprofit, community-based organizations from across Contra Costa County to learn how federal immigration policy changes are affecting their clients and staff. We also wanted to assess what these frontline organizations are currently doing to support these residents and staff, as well as strategies they are considering doing or want to learn more about. Within five days, we received 66 responses representing 58 organizations that provide services to Contra Costa County residents. Several organizations submitted multiple responses, with staff members sometimes providing differing answers to some questions. We included all responses in the survey findings because we assume that staff members who lead specific programs within an organization may observe different impacts on their clients.

Following is a summary of key findings from the survey.

Geographic service area:

A majority (38%) of organizations that responded to the survey reported that they provide services to West County residents, followed by countywide providers (34%).



Impact of federal immigration policies on client participation:

- Twenty percent of respondents (13) reported that **fewer immigrant residents have participated in their programs** since the beginning of 2017.
 - The majority of these organizations provide services with a focus on children. However, other organizations that provide similar services responded that they have not seen any changes in client numbers or participation.
 - Several organizations cite fear of raids or arrests by federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers as the reason they believe immigrant families have participated less in their programs.
 - The organizations that reported seeing an increase in participation by immigrants in their organizations are those that provide or connect residents with legal services.

“There is much fear and anxiety in the community, and so we have seen an increase in people seeking legal advice to determine if they may have a legal immigration remedy. All our offices have seen a spike in the number of calls, and we now have a wait list for services.”

“We have heard fears from our immigrant families who are considering dropping their benefits for safety reasons.”

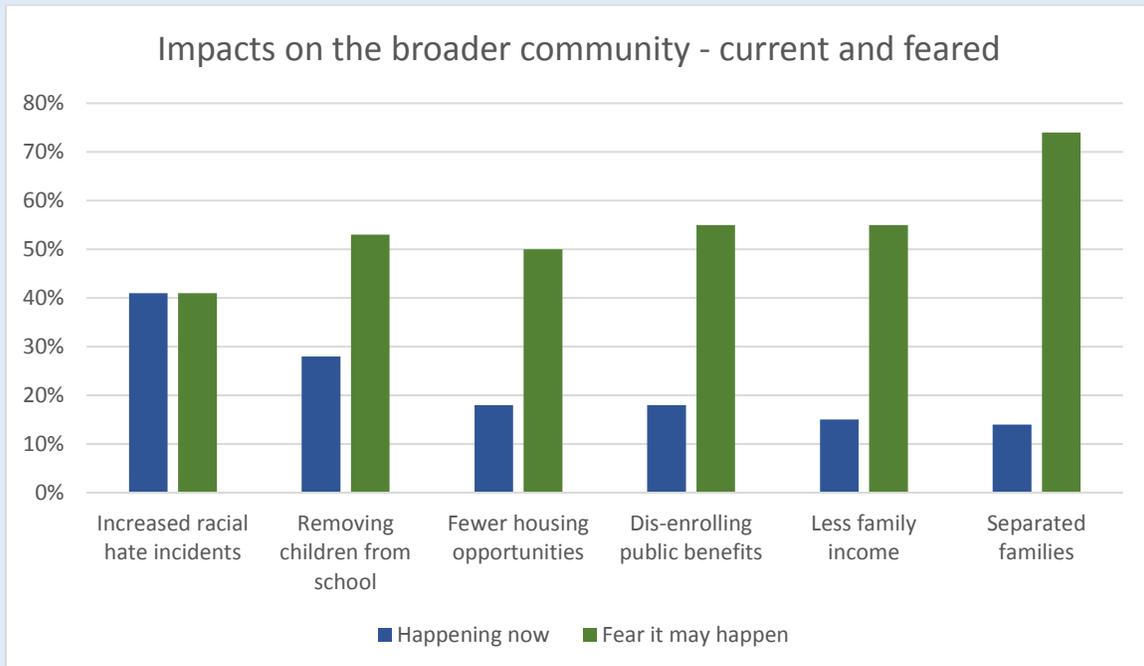
“The families that we work with understand that our organization is a safe space however they have expressed that they feel uneasy about participating in other services because they don't know whether or not is it safe for them to do so.”

“Some families in the Bay Point area have expressed fear about the changing political climate. I am concerned I will see a drop in enrollment. I am also worried I will be less able to help immigrant (or undocumented) families due to fear of self-identification. I am a school nurse

- Nearly two-thirds of respondents (42) reported they **have not yet seen a decline in the participation** of immigrant clients and residents in their programs, but said they are concerned it may happen.

Impacts on the broader community:

Respondents shared the impacts of national immigration policies that they are observing among the broader immigrant population in the communities they serve. The largest current impact was identified as an increase in racial hate incidents. The most feared future impact was the potential separation of immigrant families.



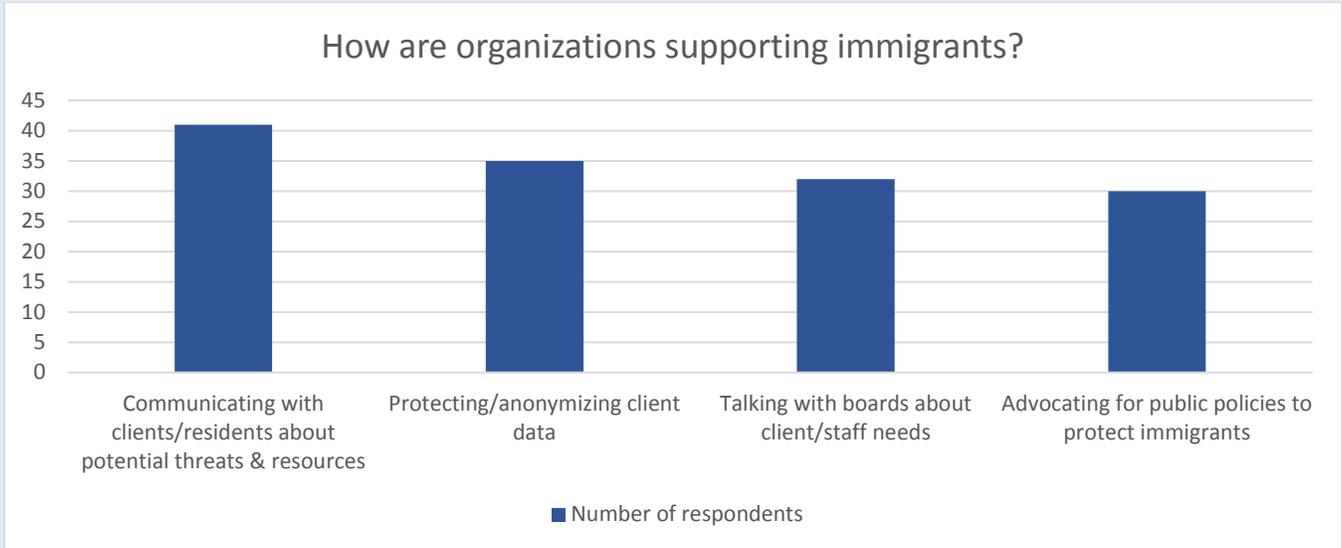
“Among undocumented immigrants, there is a tremendous amount of fear and uncertainty. Among Muslim refugees and immigrants, there is more fear of hate being directed at them and their children.”

“The number of students completing their financial aid applications, especially the DREAM Act application was down this year as a result of national policies. This will lead to less kids going to college, lower life time earnings, lower community wide income, lower home ownership, etc., etc.”

“The impact that I see is a wide-spread fear. When conducting family workshops we have an opportunity to interact with families and when responding to the question of what’s on their minds or what kind of problems are they facing in their communities, people have expressed that they are fearful, feel vulnerable and uncertain of their future.”

What actions are Contra Costa organizations taking to support immigrants?

The top four activities that organizations report engaging in to protect clients and staff who are immigrants include:



Note: In Appendix I, which starts on page 7, you will find additional graphs that show the total number of responses for this question by the geographic region served by respondents' organizations (East, Central, and West).

What strategies are organizations interested in learning more about?

Following are the top five responses shared by survey respondents:



Note: In Appendix II, which starts on page 10, you will find additional graphs that show the number of responses for this question by the geographic region served by the respondent's organization (East, Central, and West).

Conclusion

The survey results confirm that many Contra Costa organizations are already seeing the impact of national policy changes within the community. These organizations are addressing the needs of their clients and staff in many ways, and they are eager to learn about additional strategies and resources.

The Ensuring Opportunity Campaign believes that the current crisis provides an opportunity for all of us to come together to support each other to share and learn how we better support and equip our immigrant communities in this challenging landscape. We must also educate our elected officials about the impacts we are seeing in the community. Please consider sharing your program impact data and client stories with your elected representatives and with Ensuring Opportunity. For a list of local elected officials, [click here](#).

We welcome your feedback, questions, resource suggestions and ideas. Please contact Zuleika Godinez, Policy Coordinator for Ensuring Opportunity, at 510-234-1200 or zgodinez@richmondcf.org.

Appendix I: Actions that Contra Costa organizations are taking to support immigrants

The following graphs show the total number of responses for how respondent’s organizations are supporting immigrants. Graph 1 shows the total number of survey responses for each of the different activities organizations are taking. Graphs 2 through Graph 4 show the responses by each of the three geographic regions the respondents’ organizations serve (East, Central, and West).

In **East County**, the top activities organizations are taking include:

- consulting with attorneys to protect their staff and clients, and
- communicating with clients about potential threats and resources

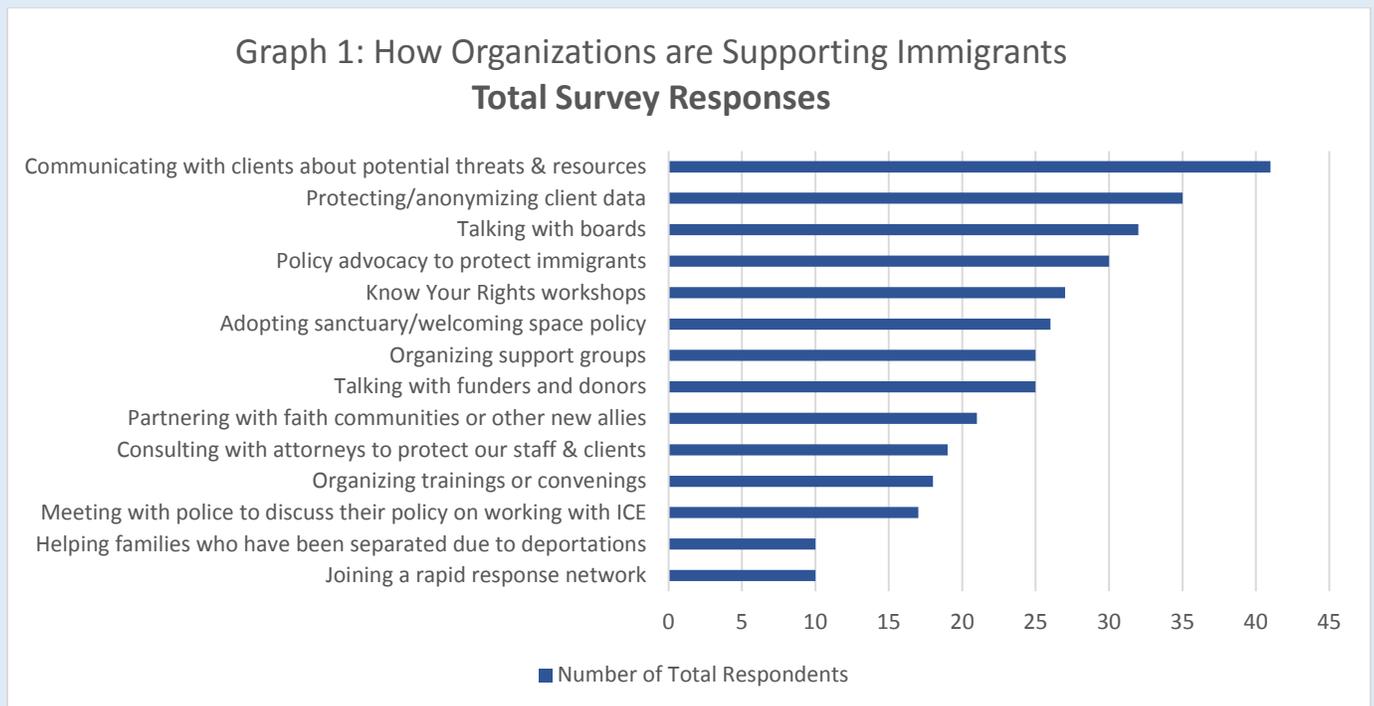
In **Central County**, the top activities they are doing include:

- protecting and anonymizing client data, and
- talking with their boards about client and staff needs

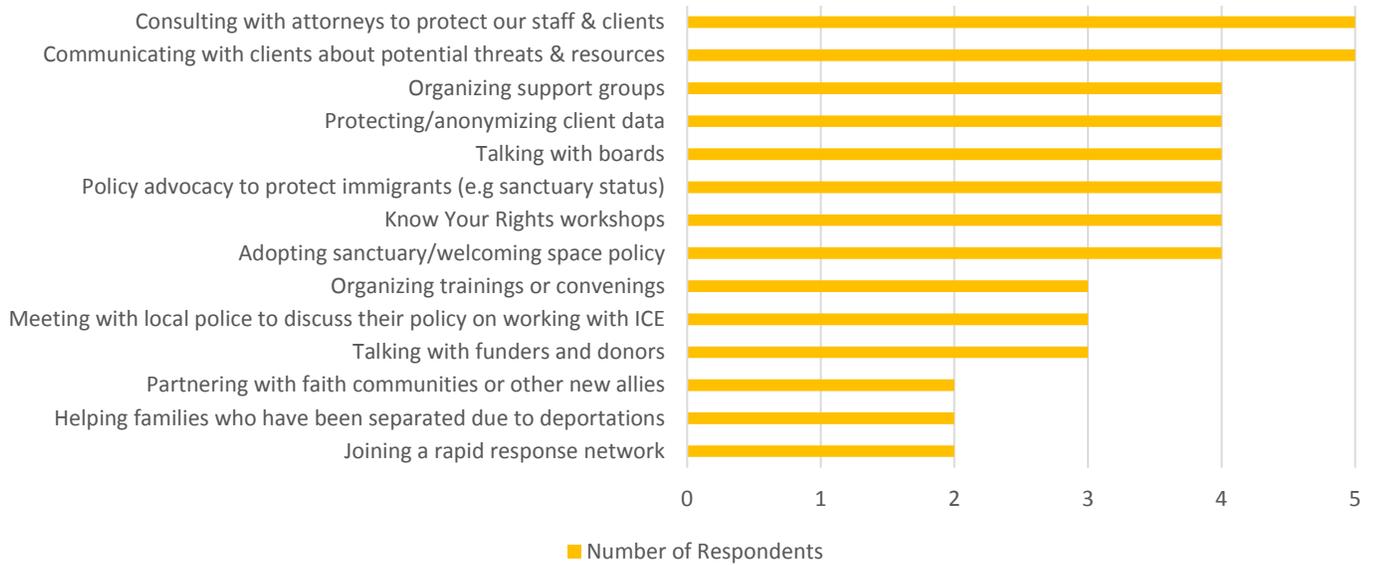
West County organizations report that they are:

- communicating with clients about potential threats and resources, and
- talking with their boards about client and staff needs

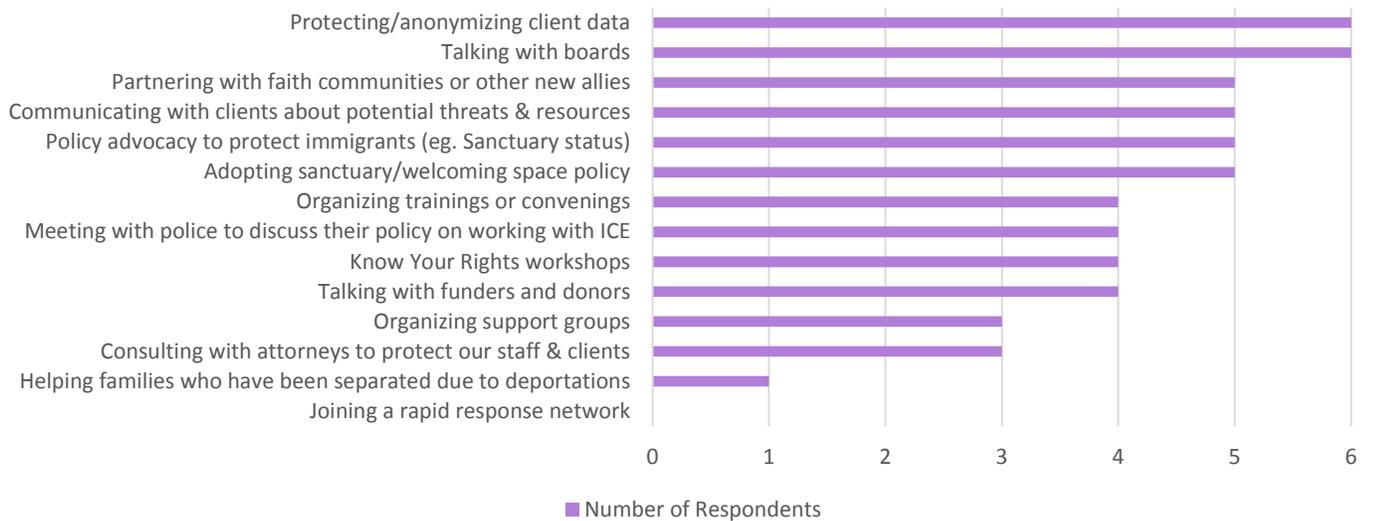
Several East and West County organizations reported having **joined a rapid response network**, while no organization in Central County reported having done so yet. Learning more information on joining a rapid response network was the most frequently chosen strategy that organizations from all regions of the county expressed interest in learning more about (see graphs 5-8).



Graph 2: How Organizations that Provide Services in East County Are Supporting Immigrants



Graph 3: How Organizations that Provide Services in Central County Are Supporting Immigrants



Graph 4: How Organizations that Provide Services in West County Are Supporting Immigrants



Appendix II: Strategies that Contra Costa organizations are interested in learning about

Following are the total number of responses shared by survey respondents on the strategies their organizations want to learn more about. Graph 5 shows the total number of responses for each of the different strategies listed in the survey. Graph 6 through Graph 8 shows the total responses by each of the three geographic regions the respondents' organizations serve (East, Central, and West).

The number one strategy organizations in all three regions are interested in learning more about is joining a rapid response network. Below this top choice, however, there were regional differences in the strategies that organizations are interested in learning about.

East County reported a need for more information on:

- Helping families separated due to deportation
- Collaborating with faith communities and other new allies.

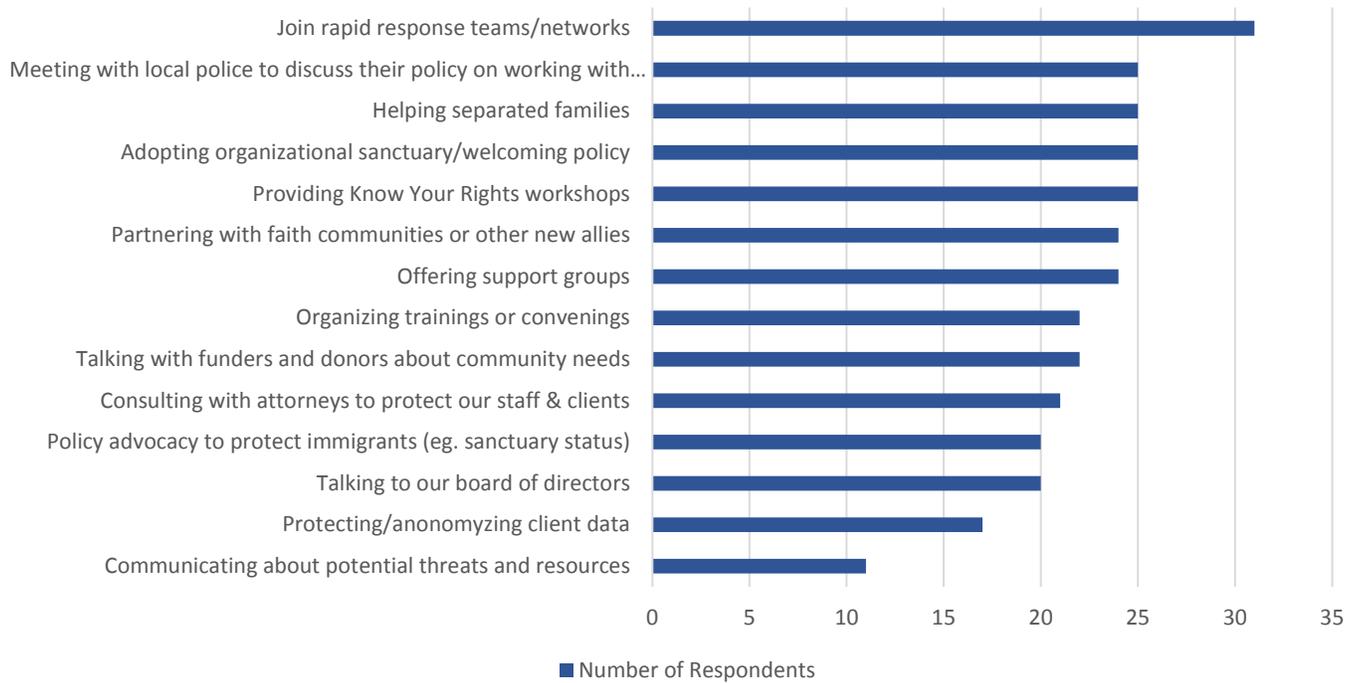
In **Central County**, the other key strategies that organizations are interested in learning more about include:

- Consulting with attorneys to protect their staff and clients
- Organizing trainings or convenings
- Helping separated families
- Adopting organizational sanctuary policy

In **West County**, additional strategies organizations want to learn more about include:

- Partnering with faith communities and other new allies
- Talking with funders and donors about community needs

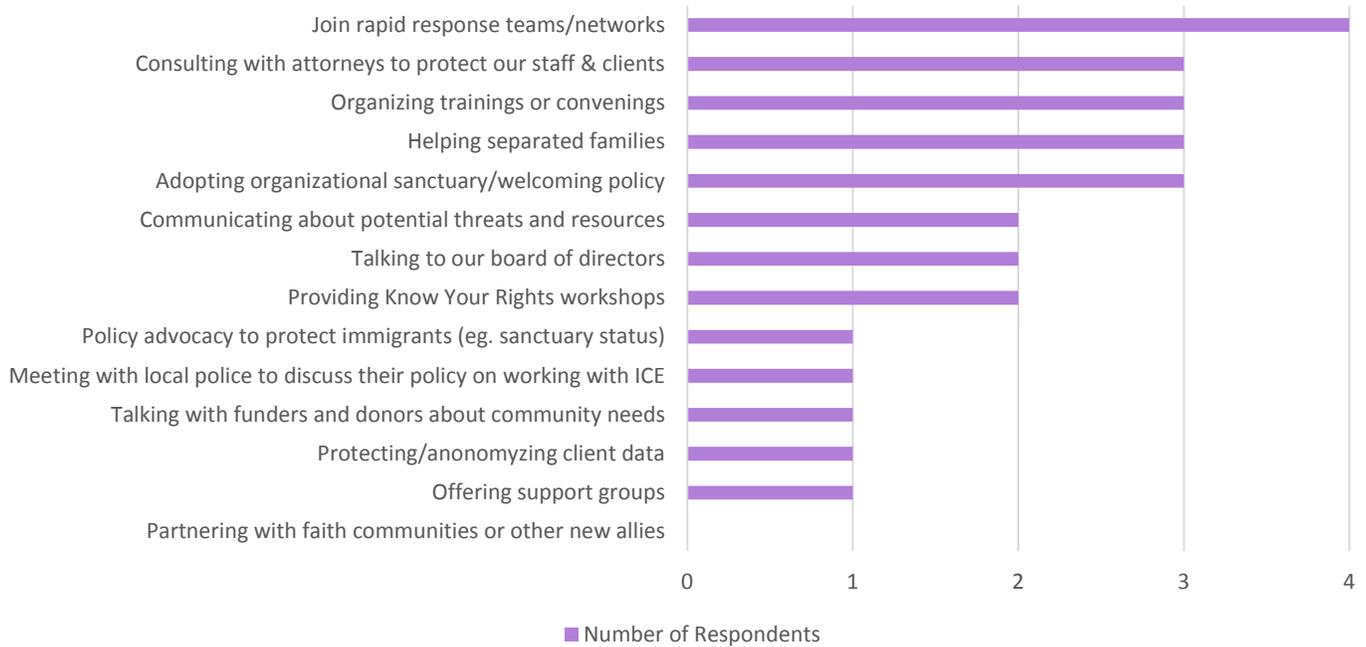
Graph 5: Strategies Organizations Want to Learn More About By Total Survey Responses



Graph 6: Strategies Organizations that Provide Services in East County Want to Learn More About



Graph 7: Strategies Organizations that Provide Services in Central County Want to Learn More About



Graph 8: Strategies Organizations that Provide Services in West County Want to Learn More About

