ABOLISH ICE
AND BEYOND:
A STATEWIDE POLICY PLATFORM
TO
DISMANTLE
THE DEPORTATION PIPELINE
Immigrant and refugee communities are experiencing non-stop attacks in the form of increased detention, including the expansion of family detention and the creation of large-scale migrant detention camps, mass prosecution and criminalization and expedited and widespread deportations. However, our communities know first-hand that these policies are not new. They are part of a larger infrastructure that has been building for over a decade to create and expand a detention and deportation system that profits off of the incarceration, prosecution and separation of immigrant families and communities.

The deportation system is only one arm of the carceral state. In order to end detention and deportation, we must dismantle the larger network of systems that criminalize our communities. The deportation system relies on surveillance technology, including the collection and compilation of our personal and private information in a network of government databases, racial profiling, private corporations, Sheriff’s, Police, jails, detention centers, and prisons to operate as it was designed. Without a systemic approach to stop the criminalization machine, we cannot fully achieve liberation.

With #AbolishICE garnering national attention and the growing outcry to #EndFamilySeparation, it marks a pivotal moment in the immigrant rights movement that demands bold action and a new vision. We can fight for proactive policies that link across sectors and movements. The ICE out of CA Coalition’s policy platform embodies an abolitionist framework to dismantle all systems of oppression and criminalization that impact immigrants and communities of color.
As immigration enforcement tactics shift, DHS agencies have come to rely heavily on cooperation from local and state police to detain and deport. Cutting off this access can shield immigrants from deportation and preserve local resources to invest in our communities.

END ALL FORMS OF ENTANGLEMENT BETWEEN LOCAL & STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT & DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS) AGENCIES
We call for state and local policy solutions that:

Prohibit California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) facilities and jails from allowing DHS agents to access facilities and obtain office space to access individuals held in detention or during release.

Prohibit state and local law enforcement from responding to ICE requests, including but not limited to requests to access immigrants for interviews, notification or transfer requests.

Prohibit state and local law enforcement from sharing information contained in files and databases with DHS agencies, for any purpose.

Prohibit state and local law enforcement from sharing personal information with DHS agencies in any format or publicly posting release or court dates (including online).

Restrict state and local law enforcement from participating in joint task forces or joint criminal operations.

Ensure state and local law enforcement accept all forms of identification, including but not limited to, municipal IDs, consular ID cards, student ID cards, foreign passports, and AB 60 driver’s licenses.

Prohibit state and local law enforcement from sharing surveillance data, including but not limited to Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) data with DHS agencies for any purpose.
We know that people of color, especially Black people, are disproportionately criminalized and incarcerated. These disproportionate outcomes are in part fueled by local fiscal decisions that prioritize policing and incarceration over social services, education, and health care. We envision a world that prioritizes community-led and community-centered rehabilitative and trauma informed services, not jails or prisons.

DIVERT FUNDING FROM LOCAL & STATE POLICE INTO COMMUNITY PROGRAMS
We call for state and local policy solutions that:

Divert Sheriff and Police Department budgets to community-based re-entry and rehabilitative programs that support the reintegration of people back into their communities. These programs should be culturally competent, allow access to services for all people regardless of immigration status or conviction, and prohibit the sharing of personal information with federal agencies.

Push local governments and police to deny any and all federal grants that require involvement in immigration enforcement as a condition to receive funding. This includes but is not limited to, Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing Services (DOJ COPS) and the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) grants.

Create alternatives to incarceration and detention that are trauma informed and match people with their expressed needs such as health care, education, and workforce development opportunities.

Create local accountability mechanisms to track how funding is spent and evaluation measures for county and city budgets.
The role of the criminal justice system is normalized in our society, casting individuals with convictions as “bad” and looking to jails and prisons as the solution. Yet in reality, the criminal justice system upholds white supremacy and targets low-income individuals, ripping people out of their communities and placing them in environments that are isolating, unhealthy, and traumatizing. These “tough on crime” policies must be challenged and we must invest in solutions that address root causes.
We call for state and local policy solutions that:

Decriminalize drug use, sex work, gang affiliation, homelessness, mental health, poverty, and human movement.

Reduce the severity of sentences and eliminate sentence enhancements.

Eliminate the tracking of individuals through technology and surveillance.

Increase reliance on support teams that respond to calls for help with certified social workers, counselors, and mental health experts in place of police.
Since deportation is tied to the carceral state, it relies on the functions of jails, prisons and detention centers to funnel people into deportation proceedings. We cannot dismantle one system without dismantling the others.
We call for state and local policy solutions that:

Prohibit the expansion of jails, prisons, and private and public detention centers in California.

Prohibit people from being transferred to facilities outside of California.

Approach conflict and harm with restorative justice approaches instead of cages and convictions.

Shut down existing facilities and divert individuals previously held in these facilities to re-entry and rehabilitative programs based in the community. We do not equate electronic monitoring as an alternative to incarceration or detention.
Elected officials are tasked with representing the interests of their constituents, however, many of our representatives answer to corporations and law enforcement unions over the voices in their district. We envision a world where people and community members are active participants in policy development and the decisions that impact their daily lives.
We call for state and local policy solutions that:

Increase opportunities for local governing bodies to listen to community concerns and create processes to investigate complaints and violations of state law.

Create oversight bodies of police, DHS agencies, jails, prisons, and detention centers that have independent investigative powers (i.e. subpoena power) and involve directly impacted individuals and community members.

Develop mechanisms for policy makers to receive community input on local and state policy proposals from directly impacted people.