

Inland Region: Weaving Powerful Networks for Justice

The Fund for an Inclusive California (F4ICA) is a funding initiative co-designed and co-governed with grassroots leaders to advance community-driven housing justice efforts. Now in its eighth and final year, we have aligned funders to build and sustain a pooled fund that has moved \$17 million to support four regions and statewide formations since 2018.

The Fund is a unique force in the ecosystem. Our long-standing support for organizing proves what's possible in the Inland Region with sustained, agile funding: strong cross-issue efforts, deeper political alignment, and growing power to shape public discourse, influence policy, and advance community-driven housing solutions.

These successes are not by chance, they are precisely what organizations have named as possibilities if we fund them collectively to win. With sustained support, there is so much more that can be done. This brief highlights their impact during the second phase of our work together, beginning in 2022. It underscores why bold, coordinated, and long-term investment is essential to achieving a thriving and just California for all.



STARTING OVER, INC.

Inland Region: A Landscape of Challenges and Resilience

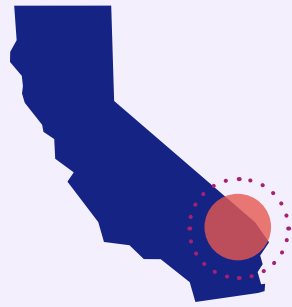
California's Riverside and San Bernardino Counties are home to over five million residents. The region is racially and ethnically diverse, with Latinos alone making up over half (52%) of all residents, and about one in five Inland Region residents is an immigrant. It has one of the most complex and rapidly shifting housing landscapes in the state. Once considered an affordable alternative to coastal counties, the Inland Region now faces skyrocketing rents, low wages, and intensified displacement pressures.

A booming warehouse and logistics industry has brought low-paying, high-turnover jobs, while fueling pollution, extreme heat, and health inequities. With a median annual income of just \$36,747, many households, especially low-income and immigrant families, struggle to meet basic living costs, let alone rising rents. The Inland Region receives only a fraction of the public and philanthropic resources directed to other parts of California. Chronic underinvestment has left community organizations to shoulder immense responsibilities with limited resources.

In the face of these mounting pressures, it is a hub of resilience, creativity, and determination. Community organizations, many led by people of color, are building power, advancing tenant protections, and shaping policy debates long dominated by powerful industries. Their innovative approaches to housing justice, environmental resilience, and community governance are transforming the region, even amid profound challenges.



FOR A DEEPER DIVE LOOK AT THE [INLAND REGION LEARNING BRIEF](#).



About Our Phase II Inland Region Partners

F4ICA's eight Inland Region community partners work across intersectional issue areas, including economic justice, worker and immigrant rights, housing and tenant rights, the criminal legal system, and voting rights.

\$1.43M in grants in Phase II, for a total of **\$3.13M** since 2018.

2 Counties:

Riverside and San Bernardino

8 Community Partners:

ACLU Foundation of Southern California
Congregations Organized for Prophetic Engagement (COPE)

Just San Bernardino

Pueblo Unido Community Development Corporation (CDC)

Starting Over, Inc.

Time for Change Foundation

TODEC Legal Center

Warehouse Workers Resource Center

100% serving communities living on low-incomes

100% serving immigrants

7 Phase II Funders Include:

Amplify Fund

The California Endowment

Chan Zuckerberg Initiative

Heising-Simons Foundation

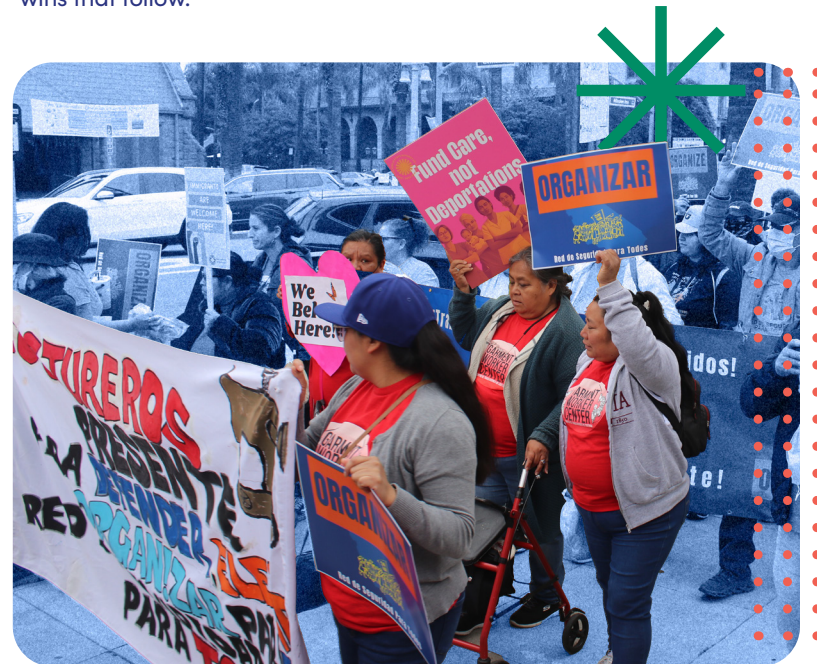
The James Irvine Foundation

San Francisco Foundation

Weingart Foundation

Phase II Impact: Building Power Across the Inland Region

F4ICA's investments in the Inland Region have strengthened the organizing infrastructure needed to sustain organizing work focused specifically on housing justice, and to weave a stronger and more unified regional movement across Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. With flexible, multi-year support, partners staffed up to organize, mobilize, and sustain a consistent presence in the civic and policy arenas where housing decisions are made. They built leadership among the residents most affected by housing instability, warehouse expansion, and environmental injustice, and came together through the work of F4ICA partner Just San Bernardino and the Inland Region Housing Justice Coalition to enter those spaces as a coordinated regional force. These collaborative efforts animate many of the wins that follow.



WAREHOUSE WORKERS RESOURCE CENTER (WWRC)

Ending Criminalization of People and Discriminatory Housing Policies

Across the Inland Region, partners are dismantling discriminatory housing policies that criminalize poverty and shut people out of stable homes. By reframing housing stability as a foundation for public safety, not a reward for select residents, community leaders are reversing punitive "tough on crime" approaches like Crime-Free Housing that have long fueled forced evictions, family separation, and the criminalization of tenants. Residents grounded in lived experience are showing decision-makers that safe, secure housing strengthens families, supports economic mobility, and keeps neighborhoods whole. Together, they are expanding housing access for survivors of incarceration and homelessness, opening pathways for those too often locked out, and proving that communities, not carceral systems, build true safety.

- COPE, STARTING OVER, INC., and TIME FOR CHANGE FOUNDATION helped repeal or reform Crime-Free Housing ordinances in multiple cities across Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, ending policies that fueled forced evictions and family separation.
- Through public testimony and storytelling, residents reframed housing stability as a public safety issue, challenging the narratives started by bad actors behind punitive housing policy.
- Organizing led by COPE pushed San Bernardino to declare a housing humanitarian crisis and state of emergency, unlocking a \$20 million budget allocation for a Housing Initiative and Navigation Center, including relocation fees for residents displaced by building red-tagging.

Challenging Industrial and Carceral Power

In the Inland Region, organizing for housing justice has to contend with powerful industrial and carceral interests. Unchecked warehouse development has displaced residents, polluted neighborhoods, and eroded community control, while outside investors treat the region as land and labor to extract.

F4ICA's community partners are reclaiming public decisions for the people who actually live there. They are challenging an economy built on low-wage, high-turnover jobs, confronting warehouse-driven development, surveillance technology, exploitative labor conditions, and slumlord neglect wherever corporate power touches homes and jobs. Through coordinated campaigns, partners are advocating for county and city budgets that serve residents rather than speculators, shifting dollars away from carceral systems and toward long-term housing stability, tenant safety, and community well-being.

- Partners built a unified narrative that county and city budgets must prioritize affordable housing over carceral systems, culminating in coordinated public comment at county budget hearings, a first for the region's housing justice movement.



CONGREGATIONS ORGANIZING FOR PROPHETIC ENGAGEMENT (COPE)

- THE WAREHOUSE WORKERS RESOURCE CENTER, alongside ACLU OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, are challenging surveillance technology like Flock, run through Amazon Web Services, due to its ties with ICE.
- COPE is researching and educating on public reinvestment through the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA), pushing capital back into underserved communities.
- Partners like PUEBLO UNIDO CDC and the WAREHOUSE WORKERS RESOURCE CENTER are tackling pollution, extreme heat, and infrastructure gaps tied to climate crisis pressures and warehouse expansion.
- Partners are championing housing justice bills including Assembly Bill 1157 — Affordable Rent Act and Senate Bill 555 — Stable and Affordable Housing Act, to extend protections beyond local wins.



TIME FOR CHANGE FOUNDATION



ACLU FOUNDATION OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Building Community-Owned Solutions for Land and Life

Across the Inland Region, partners are building a future where land and housing serve communities rather than speculative markets. Partners are pairing environmental justice wins like clean water and healthier neighborhoods, and preserving existing homes, with transformative public investments that keep residents rooted. At the same time, they are seeding the next phase of work: community land trusts, cooperative ownership, and social housing strategies built to withstand political and economic uncertainty. Together, they are charting a forward-looking vision of locally rooted economic systems and community-controlled structures that keep residents housed, healthy, and in charge of their own neighborhoods for generations to come.

- ✱ Long-term, community-led efforts anchored by **PUEBLO UNIDO CDC** secured the region's largest-ever state investment in manufactured housing preservation, a \$20 million award from the California Department of Housing and Community Development to redevelop San Antonio Mobile Home Park, improving conditions for roughly 400 residents. This builds on a \$23 million investment in drinking water infrastructure, won through community advocacy, now serving approximately 2,500 residents across multiple Polanco parks and addressing decades-old environmental injustice.
- ✱ Sixty-three percent of Inland Region partners are advancing community ownership strategies that shift land and housing out of speculative markets and into community stewardship. **COPE, JUST SAN BERNARDINO, PUEBLO UNIDO CDC, and TODEC LEGAL CENTER** are leading efforts to explore and build these models to regain community control of development.
- ✱ **STARTING OVER, INC.**, launched the Ruchell Cinque Magee Community Land Trust, which works to acquire and steward land for the development of stable, affordable housing for people returning from incarceration and families impacted by the justice system. Through community ownership and long-term land stewardship, the community land trust is building pathways to housing stability, economic opportunity, and collective security.

A Call to Build What's Next

Together, we have proven what is possible when funders listen, co-create, and trust community partners and their solutions. In the current political and funding context these lessons matter all the more.

As we step into the concluding year of an 8-year initiative, in a challenging funding landscape, we recommit to serving as an advocate for and partner to the housing justice movement. Common Counsel Foundation is committed to supporting communities to build trust, relational infrastructure, and grow their power and influence for housing justice.

For funders committed to a just and vibrant California, this is a moment to learn from what has worked and help carry it forward. We invite funders to join us in conversation and action on how we can sustain this vital movement infrastructure.



WAREHOUSE
WORKERS
RESOURCE
CENTER (WWRC)

Reach out: F4ICA@CommonCounsel.org