

Updated March 24, 2025

Message Guidance and Suggested Talking Points ICE Raids on Shelters

This is message guidance and talking points for potential ICE raids of shelters and soup kitchens. Please adapt to the specifics of your work.

Considerations as you speak publicly about the potential impacts of these raids:

- Lean into the impact of the raids on your neighborhood and community.
- Call out some elected officials for supporting the raids and scapegoating immigrants living on the brink. Be clear this is an effort to distract us because they haven't focused on real solutions.
- Focus on how awful the raids are to people *AND* provide alternative – better – solutions. Show *how* our communities are better off when we focus on solutions, such as housing, healthcare and job opportunities.
- Go on the offense by not repeating the opposition's words, even adding the word "not". For example, do not say, "Raids are not the solution." Instead reframe the issue to what you want, ie, "The solution is ..."

Suggested talking points and messaging:

- Federal agents raided our shelter / center/ soup kitchen and seized people like you and me. Families who are trying to keep a roof over their heads by staying in shelters instead of living on the streets. This raid was an abuse of power.
- Today we saw what happens when federal officials abuse their power and order the police to target people who don't have a safe place to live. This raid not only left members of our community more vulnerable, it left our neighborhoods less safe from police. *(Or insert the impacts on your community.)*
- Federal officials are scapegoating immigrants and poor people and manipulating us so we don't focus on the fact that they are not solving any of our country's problems, from housing to healthcare. Instead, they are targeting people struggling to get by.

- We should be the ones deciding what kind of communities we live in. Together, we can choose to be communities that provide people the support they need when they need it. We can use our resources to help people keep a roof over their heads, instead of targeting people who need soup kitchens and shelters to survive.
- Attacking new immigrants for trying to stay safe and get a warm meal is short-sighted. Immigrants make our communities stronger; they grow our food, take care of our children, build our houses. Our whole economy relies on the hard work of immigrants.
- Our shelters/centers/soup kitchens are doing the job of government and elected officials, who should be using their power responsibly to help people get and keep a roof over their heads instead of raiding soup kitchens and shelters to round up people who are struggling to get by.
- In a country as rich and powerful as ours, we have the resources to help our neighbors – whether they've lost homes to fires and floods or are new arrivals fleeing violence or war.
- Everyone – longtime residents and immigrants alike – needs a place to call home. We can expand legal services or speed up work authorization for asylum seekers, so people can provide for themselves and their families.