The Impact of ICE Raids on Los Angeles County's Indigenous Migrant Communities, 2025

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CIELO COMUNIDADES INDIGENAS EN LIDERAZGO
USCDornsife Equity Research Institute

Los Angeles County is shaped by communities from across the globe, including Indigenous Migrants who carry forward the cultures and heritages of present-day Mexico and Central America. On June 6, 2025, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) began a series of enforcement operations across Los Angeles County. These immigration "sweeps", which lasted for the majority of the year[1], resulted in many being detained and arrested in places like L.A.'s Fashion District and many Home Depots across the region. Many Indigenous Migrant workers are employed in businesses that were targeted by ICE. During this time, many of the workers and their families lives were disrupted.

During the height of these raids, CIELO distributed funds to those directly affected by the escalation in immigration enforcement. **The data provided in this brief reflect those who received emergency financial assistance distributed by CIELO between June 30 and October 9, 2025.** While the escalation in immigration enforcement continues across the County as well as nationwide, this brief offers a snapshot of the conditions that many Indigenous Migrants were facing at the onset of these escalations and a reminder of the ongoing need to support communities most impacted by these aggressive and inhumane federal immigration actions.



Indigenous Migrant Communities Experienced Financial Hardship

Heavy immigration enforcement in neighborhoods and workplaces prevented many from going to work. Nearly all fund recipients reported having difficulty paying rent, working fewer hours, and struggling to buy groceries.



77%
of fund recipients lost their jobs during the ICE raids.

> **"ICE pasaba con frecuencia rumbo a mi trabajo y desde hace dos meses que dejé de trabajar, no me he recuperado económicamente." //**
> **" ICE would stop by frequently at my work, and since I stopped working two months ago, I haven't recovered financially."**
> *– Zapoteco male Indigenous migrant restaurant worker and fund recipient*

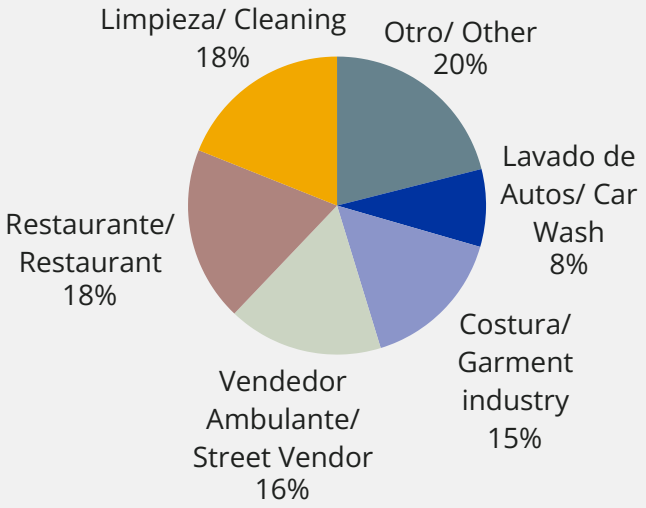
[1]Blair, Graeme. 2026. "Immigration Enforcement in Los Angeles Under the Second Trump Administration – Deportation Data Project." https://deportationdata.org/analysis/immigration-enforcement-in-los-angeles-second-trump-administration.html.

Indigenous Migrant Service Workers Were Impacted by the ICE raids

The majority of fund recipients were self-employed or worked in occupations that employ high proportions of immigrant or undocumented labor.[2] Fund recipients said their work had slowed down, and for some, the factories they worked at closed because of the raids.

> **"Pues en mi persona salgo a trabajar con miedo porque uso transporte público y tengo hijos que mantener. Soy madre soltera y yo soy la que lleva [los] gastos en mi hogar." //**
> **"Personally, I go out to work feeling afraid because I use public transportation and have children to support; I am a single mother and the one who covers the household expenses."**
> *– Indigenous migrant mother and fund recipient*

Top 5 Occupations of Indigenous Migrant Communities Receiving Emergency Funds from CIELO during the ICE Raids, Los Angeles County, June 30 to October 9, 2025



Source: CIELO Emergency Funds Survey 2025.



3 OUT OF 4

fund recipients limited their time outdoors from June to October



73%

of fund recipients had at least one child under 18 living in their home.

Indigenous Migrant Families Were Separated and Lives Were Disrupted

Among those reporting knowing someone in detention, a majority said that their husband was detained. Some also reported having siblings, close friends, and acquaintances detained.

> **"Tengo miedo de salir ya que mi esposo está detenido por ICE. Tengo dos hijos menores .Y si ICE me agarra a mí, ¿qué va a hacer con mis hijos? Por eso tengo miedo." //**
> **"I am afraid to go out because my husband is detained by ICE, and I have two minor children. If ICE were to catch me, what would happen to my children? That is why I am afraid."**
> *– Mixe Indigenous migrant mother and fund recipient*

For more on Indigenous Migrant Communities in Los Angeles, please read our 2024 report: https://bit.ly/4zQI3Zg

[2]Shannon M. Sedgwick, Justin Adams, Ph.D., Dan Wei, Ph.D., Max Chomas, Ph.D., and Matthew Skyberg. n.d. ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF FEDERAL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY. Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation. https://opportunity.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/LAEDCxDEO_Immigration-Enforcment-Report-2026.02.01.pdf.