

18TH ANNUAL PROMOTORAS' Legislative Advocacy Day

MAY 2, 2023 • California

Promotoras across California urge their representatives to support legislation that improves the quality of life for the most vulnerable communities they serve, and that are most impacted by inequities in health, education and immigration issues.

Founded in 2000, Visión y Compromiso is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of underrepresented communities by lifting up the leadership and voices of promotoras and community health workers—trusted community experts who educate, empower, and advocate for change. Created by, for, and with promotoras, Visión y Compromiso has consistently centered grassroots community leadership while becoming a sought-after partner to diverse organizations, agencies, and institutions seeking to adopt the Promotor Model to advance community well-being. For more than 20 years, we have been a leader in elevating the work of promotoras, firmly rooted in supporting linguistically and culturally competent and responsive *servicio de corazón* (service from the heart). This approach is at the core of our Promotor Model for Community Transformation and thus the success of building a robust movement of promotor leaders.

WHO ARE PROMOTORAS?

Promotoras are the trusted messengers and leaders in their communities. Trusted by often marginalized community members who go to them for information, resources, and guidance, they share similar characteristics as the residents they serve and provide *servicio de corazón* (service from the heart). Promotoras strengthen the safety net for low income and immigrant communities building relationships and delivering culturally and linguistically relevant services. Promotoras are able to reduce the barriers to health education and services that are common for native-born and immigrant communities. The result is better health for more individuals, families and communities. Such skills are deserving of a sustainable, inclusive, equitable, and recognized means of workforce development making this one component of Vision y Compromiso's Economic Equity Initiative priorities to advocate for fairer policies for ALL, staying true to our mission and values: Towards a dignified and healthy life!



The Network of Promotoras and Community Health Workers

In 2001 Visión y Compromiso established the first and only Network of Promotoras and Community Health Workers in California. The Network now includes more than 4,000 promotoras in 13 regions of California. In 2015 we also expanded to a National Network to include additional community networks in Nevada.

The Network provides leadership, training and advocacy for promotoras and community health workers. The Network carries out the work through a model based on community strength. Regional Committees, divisions of the Network, provide promotoras with workforce development and professional training. They help to build leadership and peer support and develop organizing and advocacy skills.

The Regional Committees offer a structure that brings individual promotoras together and allows them to share resources and best practices.



Norma Benitez
Network Director
norma@visionycompromiso.org

Peter Phillips
Advocacy Manager
peter@visionycompromiso.org

Mariaelena Aguilar
Promotoras Network Manager
Orange County, San Diego
mariaelena@visionycompromiso.org

Veronica Arciga
Promotoras Network Manager
Los Angeles, San Fernando Valley,
Central Coast, Las Vegas, NV
veronica@visionycompromiso.org

Arturo Palato
Promotoras Network Manager
Bay Area, Stanislaus, Napa
arturo@visionycompromiso.org

Nataly Santamaria
Promotoras Network Manager
Madera, Kern, Tulare
nataly@visionycompromiso.org

Liza Serna
Promotoras Network Manager
San Bernardino/Riverside and
Coachella
liza@visionycompromiso.org

Visión y Compromiso Advocacy Committee

Visión y Compromiso engages the leadership of promotoras in order to participate with other stakeholders in decision making and policy development, convenes forums that support policies reflective of community needs. In 2013 Visión y Compromiso formed the first Promotor Advocacy Committee to provide leadership and support for statewide policy work. Representing the Network of Promotoras and Community Health Workers, each member brings the focus and concerns of regional members to the Advocacy Committee ensuring that promotoras address issues statewide as well as at the local level.



Visión y Compromiso Advocacy Committee members



Visión y Compromiso's 2023 Legislative Priorities

On May 2, 2023, promotoras in California urge legislators to support the following bills:

Promotora Community Based Organizations Budget Request

ASSEMBLYMEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY

Request to fund \$10 million to support small and medium-sized community-based organizations that work with promotoras so they can effectively serve their communities and integrate into the state's plans to enhance health and wellness for underserved Californians.

HEALTH

AB-4 Covered California: Expansion

ASSEMBLYMEMBER ARAMBULA

Expansion of Covered California to allow people who are not eligible to buy health insurance due to their immigration status.

IMMIGRATION

SB-227 Expand Unemployment: Excluded Workers Program

SENATOR DURAZO

Establishes the Excluded Workers Program, in order to provide income assistance to undocumented workers.

EDUCATION

SB-445 Special Education, IEP Translation Services

SENATOR PORTANTINO

Requires a local educational agency to translate the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) and other related documents and meetings into the native language.

PROMOTORA WORKFORCE

Reject proposal to delay community health worker, promotora, community health representative (CHW/P/R) funds. Reject the Governor's Proposal to delay implementation of the \$130 million CHW/P/R Workforce and Training Program, approved in the 2022 budget.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

Peter Phillips, Advocacy Manager
peter@visionycompromiso.org • 213-500-6262

PROMOTORAS ALSO SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING BILLS:

HEALTH

AB 1567 Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2024

This bill would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$15,105,000,000 to finance projects for safe drinking water, wildfire prevention, drought preparation and flood protection.

IMMIGRATION

AB 636 Expand Employers: Agricultural Employees Rights

This bill would require employers to give an employee admitted through the federal H-2A agricultural visa, on the day that the H-2A employee who begins work for the employer in the state or on the first day that the employee begins work for another H-2A employer, give additional information in Spanish describing an agricultural employee's rights and protection under California law, as specified.

EDUCATION

AB 723 Pupil Placement: Special Education Foster Children: Schools or Non-Public Agencies

Foster children and youth with disabilities have the right to remain in their school of origin after moving to a new location to promote school stability and improve educational outcomes.

WORKFORCE

AB-1387 In-Home Supportive Services

This bill would require issuing a request for proposals for a 3-year, grant-based program to support outreach and education to encourage immigrants to become in-home supportive services (IHSS) providers, contingent upon an appropriation by the Legislature. The bill would set forth eligible outreach activities, including developing educational and outreach materials, and providing community outreach workers.

MORE
INFORMATION
→



RESOURCES!
←

CONTACT VISIÓN Y COMPROMISO

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Maria Lemus
Executive Director
maria@visionycompromiso.org

Melinda Cordero-Barzaga
Associate Director
melinda@visionycompromiso.org

Norma Benitez
Network Director
norma@visionycompromiso.org

www.visionycompromiso.org



213-613-0630

info@visionycompromiso.org

