

21ST ANNUAL

Promotora Legislative Advocacy Day

MAY 5, 2026 • CALIFORNIA



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

Visión y Compromiso, founded in 2000 by and for promotoras, is committed to advancing the health and well-being of underrepresented communities.

We achieve this by lifting the leadership of promotoras and community health workers (CHWs)—trusted local experts who drive meaningful change to advocate for their communities. Grassroots community leadership is at the forefront of our advocacy objectives for health and community well-being. And, we have become a respected partner among diverse organizations, agencies, and institutions that aim to adopt the Promotora Model for community transformation.

For more than 25 years, we have provided linguistically and culturally relevant training and support while elevating the critical work of promotoras and their *servicio de corazón* (service from the heart).

The Promotora Model is central to our community-based approach, fostering a resilient network of promotora leaders dedicated to promoting community well-being. We partner with promotoras, CHWs, and allies in the public and private sectors to advocate for policies that strengthen and expand these proven community-driven solutions.

WHO ARE PROMOTORAS?

A predominantly women-led workforce, promotoras are *puentes de la comunidad* (community bridges) and essential workers who know how to connect under-resourced and historically underserved communities. Promotoras share similar characteristics as the residents they serve. As trusted messengers and leaders who provide *servicio de corazón*, community members look up to them for information, resources, and guidance.

They are paid and volunteer community workers, primarily associated with community-based organizations (CBOs), with diverse job titles such as peer educators, outreach workers, health advocates, and patient navigators. Promotoras advocate for community change and empower underserved and immigrant communities through culturally and linguistically relevant education and services.

The promotora workforce is socially critical. It bridges the needs of the most underserved communities, closing health gaps and addressing systemic health inequities. Their cost-effective interventions not only improve community well-being but also lead to significant savings in healthcare and social costs.

Promotoras are a valuable partner in building a healthier California. This critical workforce deserves equitable and sustainable development initiatives.



Year-round, promotoras are actively engaged in our communities and advocating for just policies. *Visión y Compromiso* engages the leadership of promotoras to participate with other stakeholders in decision-making and policy development and convenes forums to support policies that reflect community needs.

The **California Network of Promotoras and Community Health Workers (CHWs)** was established in 2002 by *Visión y Compromiso* as the first and only network of its kind. The network currently supports more than 4,000 promotoras and CHWs. The network provides resources for education, leadership, training, advocacy, workforce development, and professional development. It also facilitates the implementation of local programs and initiatives through 17 Regional Committees, which organize around a community-based, strength-focused model that encourages collaboration and resource sharing among promotoras through our Promotora Model for community transformation.

We established our first **Promotora Advocacy Committee** in 2013 to offer leadership and support for statewide policy initiatives. Advocacy Committee members represent the California Network of Promotoras and CHWs, and bring local and regional concerns to the state level, ensuring that promotora issues are addressed at both the local and statewide levels. The following priority bills promote a healthy and dignified life for all Californians and have been identified by promotoras for *Visión y Compromiso*'s 2026 Promotora Legislative Day.

La Alianza is an ecosystem of 14 community-based organizations (CBOs) throughout California. Each has a decades-long commitment to community health by recruiting, training, and supporting the promotora and CHW workforce in health care, housing, environmental justice, education, and other sectors.

La Alianza amplifies promotora voices behind a common agenda for: Increased investments in public health infrastructure. Public Health prevention-oriented activities to advance equity. Improve the health and well-being of immigrant and indigenous communities, communities of color, and the uninsured. Founded by *Visión y Compromiso* in 2023, La Alianza organizations develop programs and resources based on the lived experiences of individuals and families residing in urban centers, rural agricultural regions, and mountain communities.

Visión y Compromiso's **National Network of Promotoras and CHWs** is active in 30 states, connecting organizations and coalitions to advocate for greater national recognition and support for community-centered promotoras, CHWs, and grassroots CBOs.



Promotora Advocacy Committee



La Alianza



National Network of Promotoras and CHWs

Promotora-Identified Policy Priorities

On Tuesday, May 5, 2026, 200 promotoras will visit the Capitol and ask legislators for their support to advance the following:

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

SB 1257: Federal Immigration Enforcement: Report (Arreguín)

Requires the Attorney General to report annually on immigration-related incidents at “safe locations” such as schools, health clinics, shelters, courthouses, and public spaces. By tracking and reporting these incidents, the bill helps ensure that safe spaces remain accessible and updated to all Californians, especially immigrants, and strengthens accountability around immigration enforcement in places where people live, learn, and receive services.

SB 1422: Medi-Cal Access Restoration Act (Durazo)

Expands full-scope Medi-Cal benefits to adults 19 and older who do not have immigration status, with some limitations such as premiums and certain dental services. SB 1422 helps ensure that immigrant communities maintain access to comprehensive health care, reducing barriers to care and promoting health equity for adults who might otherwise be excluded from Medi-Cal.

SB 942: Private Detention Facility Oversight and Standards Act of 2026 (Caballero)

Requires all private immigration detention facilities in California to be licensed and inspected by the State Department of Public Health. Facilities must meet health, safety, and care standards, and inspections may be unannounced or triggered by complaints. SB 942 protects the health, safety, and rights of detained noncitizens while increasing transparency and accountability for detention facility operators.

BUDGET PRIORITIES

Promotora Workforce & Community Implementation

Budget Request: \$30 Million

Sponsor: Visión y Compromiso • Support: La Alianza

Strengthens California’s promotora and community health workforce to ensure families can navigate new federal and state Medi-Cal requirements. This investment is divided into two parts: \$15 million to train and expand the promotora workforce for direct community navigation, and \$15 million in flexible funding for the La Alianza ecosystem to sustain the statewide infrastructure and data systems needed to implement health policy effectively at the local level.

CHW/P/Rs to Keep Californians Covered

Budget Request: \$4 Million

Sponsor: CPEHN • Support: Visión y Compromiso

As Medi-Cal policy changes roll out, many families risk losing coverage due to confusion and administrative barriers. This investment would expand Community Health Worker/Promotora/Representative (CHW/P/R) and community-based organization capacity to provide outreach, education, and navigation support. CHW/P/Rs would help communities understand Medi-Cal changes, assist with renewals, and prevent avoidable coverage losses, particularly for immigrant communities and individuals with limited English proficiency.

CHW/P/R Medi-Cal Benefit Utilization Report

Budget Request: \$750,000

Sponsor: LCHC • Co-Sponsors: Visión y Compromiso and The Children’s Partnership

Funds an annual report from the Department of Health Care Services on the use of the CHW/P/R Medi-Cal benefit, tracking utilization, reimbursement, and workforce demographics to improve outreach and service delivery.

ADDITIONAL POLICY PRIORITIES

AB 1586: Medication Preventing Opioid Overdose in Schools (Ramos)

Requires school resource officers to carry naloxone or another opioid overdose reversal medication and complete training every two years to respond to opioid overdoses at schools or school-sponsored activities.

AB 2161: Medi-Cal: Work or Community Engagement (Bonta)

Ensures that work or community engagement requirements for Medi-Cal expansion adults are implemented in ways that minimize administrative burden and prevent unnecessary loss of health coverage.

AB 1731: Office of Farm to Fork: California Healthy Food Procurement Fund Program (Wilson)

Establishes a program to increase procurement of healthy, minimally processed California-grown foods for schools and institutions, supporting healthy eating and sustainable agriculture.

AB 1537: Peace Officers: Conflict of Interest with Immigration Enforcement (Bryan)

Prohibits peace officers from working for or volunteering with federal immigration enforcement agencies or their contractors and requires disclosure of related secondary employment.



LEARN MORE!



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