



Message to the community regarding immigration enforcement from the City of Salinas

To the residents of Salinas:

We want to take a moment to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to all members of our community—regardless of immigration status. The City of Salinas and the Salinas Police Department remain dedicated to ensuring the safety, well-being, and dignity of every individual who calls Salinas home.

Discussions around immigration can be sensitive and may cause fear or uncertainty for some. Please know that the City of Salinas will continue to provide essential services to everyone, including emergency services. Your immigration status does not affect how we treat or serve you, and we will never ask about your immigration status.

We also want to assure you that the Salinas Police Department's mission is to keep our community safe, not to enforce federal immigration laws. Our officers are here to serve and protect all residents. If you are a victim or witness to a crime, we urge you to report it without fear of immigration enforcement. Your safety is our top priority, and we will do all we can to help you regardless of immigration status.

We encourage you to stay informed and share available resources with your neighbors. Visit the City's website for information available in multiple languages on legal rights, community programs, and support services.

cityofsalinas.org/KnowYourRights

Salinas is a city built on diversity, inclusion, and compassion. These values make our community vibrant and resilient. You are an essential part of Salinas, and together, we will continue to ensure our city remains a welcoming place for all.

City of Salinas



FAQ: Clarifying the Role of Law Enforcement as it Relates to Federal Immigration Law

1. Is the City of Salinas required to enforce federal immigration law?

No. Enforcement of federal immigration law is the sole responsibility of the federal government.

2. Will the City of Salinas help federal immigration enforcement agents?

While the City cannot restrict federal agents, including Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), from conducting independent immigration enforcement actions within the City of Salinas, Salinas is a Welcoming City, which means the City will not use any resources to support federal immigration enforcement.

3. Salinas is a Welcoming City. What does that mean?

- The City will not use any City funds, resources, or personnel to investigate or collect immigration or citizenship information of any individual;
- City services or benefits are not conditioned on the citizenship or immigration status of any individual, other than what may be required by federal or state law;
- The City will not allow the use of any City facility for the enforcement of federal civil immigration law; and
- The City will not become an agent of the Department of Homeland Security or perform any immigration officer functions.

4. Will the Salinas Police Department actively protect criminals?

No. The Salinas Police Department's priority is protecting public safety. Salinas Police will continue to investigate crimes and apprehend anyone involved in criminal activity, regardless of their immigration status.

It is important to understand that immigration enforcement is the responsibility of federal authorities like ICE, not local law enforcement, and as a Welcoming City, the City of Salinas will not use funds, resources, or personnel to investigate or collect immigration or citizenship information of any individual.

5. Are undocumented immigrants in Salinas “exempt” from the law?

No. Everyone, regardless of immigration status, is subject to the same laws and penalties in our City. The Salinas Police Department enforces laws equally and investigates all crimes. The distinction is that immigration enforcement, such as deportation, is the responsibility of federal agencies like ICE, not local law enforcement. This ensures that the Salinas Police Department can focus on keeping our community safe.