



RISE TOGETHER

Rise Together (RISE) is a coalition of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color leaders and a team from Community Foundation Santa Cruz County working collaboratively to advance racial equity in Santa Cruz County.

Our purpose is to build awareness, trust, and investment in the work led by, for, and in support of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities in Santa Cruz County.

Through our individual and collective stories and efforts, **we give voice to our experiences and propel actions and funding that will change existing systems of inequity and build a county where everyone can thrive.**

Our goals as an initiative, investment, and coalition are to:

- ❖ Increase upward economic mobility and sustainable local career pathways for current and next generation leaders of color and community networks.
- ❖ Amplify, value, celebrate, and preserve People of Color's stories, arts, culture, and community events.
- ❖ Change policies, structures, and systems at the root level with People of Color led solutions, representation, and power to increase equity and anti-racist policy.
- ❖ Deliver essential services, address barriers, and build community capacity to fight racial disparities to improve well-being for People of Color to prosper.
- ❖ Continuously give and grow sustained funding for communities of color.

We come together in community as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color leaders with trust and the safety to be our whole selves.

We face a historical opportunity and moral responsibility to address the continued existence and long-term effects of racial inequity and systemic racism in ourselves, our organizations, institutions, and communities.

RISE invites you to join us on this journey of mutual respect, healing, and transformative action.



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WE THEREFORE AFFIRM THE FOLLOWING:

- ❖ RISE opposes the indiscriminate seizure for deportation of undocumented individuals. We support sanctuary policies that welcome, honor, and respect the contributions of all residents, regardless of their immigration status, and public policy measures that allow pathways to legal residency and citizenship.
- ❖ RISE promotes democratic values, and specifically calls for holding curiosity and compassion over judgment and divisiveness.
- ❖ RISE recognizes the contribution of Immigrants, Refugees, Black, Indigenous, Asian, Latino, Pacific Islander, and LGBTQIA+ individuals to our country and advocates for their human and constitutional rights. We oppose those voices that fan fear and hatred, and invite dialogue in order to address biases, gaps, and barriers.
- ❖ RISE supports effective networking among federal, state, and local governments, along with community-based and grassroots organizations, to assist communities in delivering needed services to all children, youth, and families, inclusive of—and lovingly elevating—those who identify as Immigrants, Refugees, Black, Indigenous, Asian, Latino, Pacific Islander, and LGBTQIA+ individuals.
- ❖ RISE stands for racial equity. We are committed to being a part of a larger community conversation and working in partnership with public and private interests to undo racist ideologies in our community. We support having brave, honest, and inclusive conversations in developmentally appropriate ways with people from all walks of life.

Thank you for supporting these goals by lending your vocal support, private encouragement, and donations to the Rise Together Fund for Racial Equity, an initiative of the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County. For more information on how you can join us and practice equity in action, please visit: <https://www.risetogetherscc.org/>

The Rise Together Coalition invites all to RISE with a shared purpose and stand together for dignity and justice.

Sincerely,

RISE Together members with Community Foundation Santa Cruz County standing and sharing in solidarity

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