ACCE INSTITUTE

IMPACT REPORT 2025



ACCE
Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment


FUND HOUSING – NOT EVICTIONS, POLICING OR BILLIONAIRES
LOWER THE RENT NOW!
HOUSING IS A HUMAN RIGHT!
#HOUSINGDIGNITYJUSTICE
ACCE

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WHO WE ARE

ACCE Institute is a 501(c)3 power-building public charity founded in 2010.

Our mission is to foster **transformative community change across California** by engaging with low-income residents of all races in **ground-up organizing** in largely Black and Brown communities. Through leadership development, political education, and strategic issue campaigning, ACCE works to build an equitable and anti-racist society.

Our members are youth and elders, Native Californians, immigrants and citizens from other states and countries, people with disabilities, those who identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community, tenants and homeowners, workers and small business owners, dreamers, and fierce freedom fighters.

We reject the myth of scarcity—that there is not enough wealth in this state to provide everyone here with basic necessities and more—and we reject systems that inflict physical or policy violence upon us.

We believe in the **collective power** of people to dismantle oppressive systems and to build equitable ones in their place. We believe in robust civic engagement in the streets as well as in the halls of power. We believe in the utility of direct action to demonstrate and experience our power together, and to bring light to our issues and our solutions. We believe essential needs should be freely provided to everyone with no exceptions. **We believe that together we can build the world we deserve.**



Anchored by our five offices, ACCE is is a dynamic statewide organization with 16,000+ members and 50 staff driving change across every corner of California.

SIX CORE STRATEGIES



POWER IN NUMBERS



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



SYSTEMS CHANGE



DIRECT ACTION



FOLLOW THE MONEY



CHANGING THE NARRATIVE

INTRODUCTION

For ACCE, as with many organizations rooted in communities, **2025 brought new imperatives that required marshalling resources and energy at an unanticipated scale**.

The national march toward authoritarianism put California's organizing ecosystem in a critical position to hold the line. We saw indiscriminate ICE kidnappings, near military occupation of parts of Los Angeles, government shutdowns that cut food access, and congressional votes that will destroy the safety net—stripping healthcare from millions while skyrocketing premiums put health coverage out of reach from millions more. All so billionaires could get tax breaks.

Meanwhile, fires destroyed LA communities, housing remained unaffordable, homelessness continued rising, and underfunded critical programs increased the needs of vulnerable communities.

Against that backdrop, we at ACCE identified three parallel imperatives:

1. **PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES**
2. **DEFEATING AUTHORITARIANISM**
3. **BUILDING A NEW FUTURE**



INTRODUCTION

Protecting Our Communities

Protecting Our Communities means defending Californians against longstanding and emerging threats—from abusive landlords AND ICE raids. It means organizing communities to protect themselves AND demanding local and state governments to allocate the necessary resources to protect us as well.



Building a New Future

Building a New Future means pushing for what comes next. ACCE's mission is to create transformative change, and we're in a transformation moment. While fighting against harm, a new world is being shaped—so we must work right now to build a future that works for us. That means continuing to push toward social housing, climate justice, top tire education and health access.

Defeating Authoritarianism

Defeating Authoritarianism means ***delegitimizing*** the xenophobic, racist, sexist, classist agenda that puts billionaires first, ***organizing defections*** from the authoritarian coalition, and ***disrupting*** the status quo. It's saying no to democracy's destruction while shaping what we say yes to—educating voters in special elections and building a People Over Billionaires campaign that calls out individuals and corporations profiting from our pain.

INTRODUCTION

Our work this year called upon all of us to stretch, reorganize ourselves, and meet the trio of imperatives before us, and while there is still so much more work to do, we at ACCE are proud of our members for ***stepping up to the plate over and over again.***

This year's report will not show as many concrete victories or splashy headlines as in previous years, but what it will show is the day to day work of people showing up, trying new things, fiercely fighting for one another, and not giving up on the dream of a new world rooted in dignity and abundance for *all* of us.







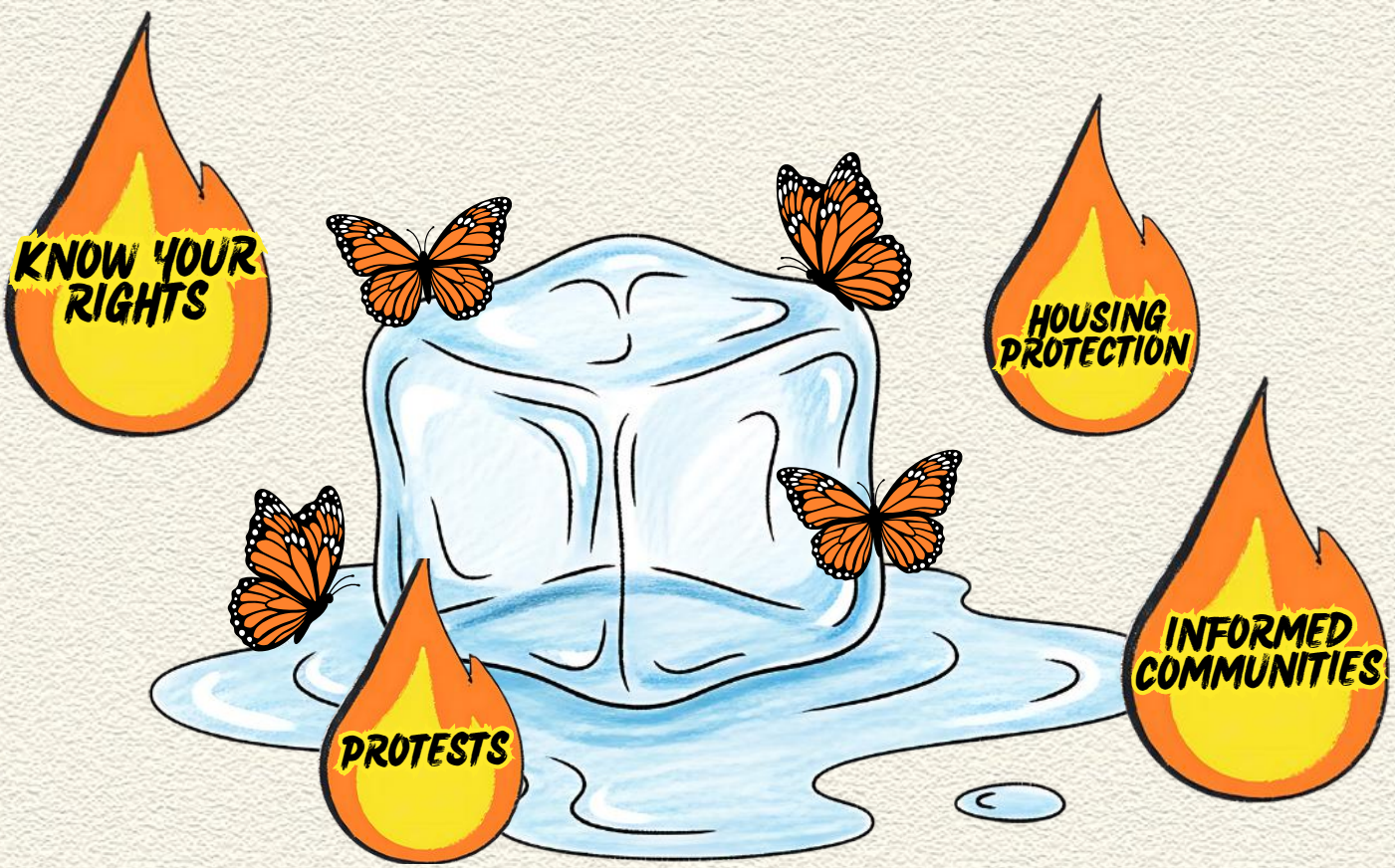


PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WORKSHOPS

As federal attacks on immigrant communities intensified and safety net programs faced unprecedented threats, ACCE responded with a comprehensive Know Your Rights & Defend Your Rights program across California. **In January and February alone, ACCE held over 200 workshops—covering both tenant and immigration protections—serving more than 5,000 community members.**

These sessions provided critical information to families navigating heightened ICE enforcement and housing instability, ensuring communities understood their rights and had access to resources during a period of escalating threats. Participants also learned about community action efforts and how to get involved in organizing to improve laws!



LA FIRES RESPONSE

When devastating fires swept through Los Angeles in January, ACCE moved quickly to hold a press conference and call for eviction protections and a rent freeze for displaced and affected families. Through persistent organizing, ACCE and allies won expanded LA County protections covering both the City of Los Angeles and unincorporated areas.

ACCE also played a leadership role on the fundraising committee that **raised nearly $1 million,** directing resources to families and grassroots organizations providing direct support to fire survivors.



BAKERSFIELD ORGANIZING AGAINST MEDICAID CUTS



In spring 2025, as the Trump administration pushed massive Medicaid cuts through Congress, ACCE launched an organizing effort in Bakersfield—a community where 67% of residents rely on Medicaid. Starting in April, ACCE staff canvassed and called into working-class neighborhoods in South Bakersfield, educating residents about the devastating impact of the cuts to MediCal and organizing them to hold their congressmember accountable for voting to slash the safety net in order to deliver tax breaks to the wealthy.

The campaign built a base of residents in Bakersfield that ACCE continues to engage, expanding the organization's reach into California's Central Valley and demonstrating the potential for organizing in communities often left out by progressive movements.



TENANT DEFENSE



ACCE members continued defending tenants facing harassment, illegal charges, and unsafe housing conditions. In Oakland, organized tenants successfully challenged fraudulent back rent charges and coordinated to restore power after a building fire left residents without electricity for months. They also organized tenants who faced illegal intimidation from landlords threatening to call ICE based on their perceived immigration status, holding these landlords accountable for racial profiling and harassment.

Building on previous victories, ACCE-LA expanded enforcement of the Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance (TAHO), with dedicated outreach staff helping members file complaints and hold abusive landlords accountable.





MASS ICE KIDNAPPINGS: LA RAPID RESPONSE NETWORK

On June 6, 2025, ICE began mass kidnappings in Los Angeles, picking up parents from schools, people at places of work and even places of worship - tearing families apart and terrorizing the Los Angeles community. ACCE Los Angeles responded by becoming the lead organization in South Central's comprehensive Rapid Response Network, a coalition of over 130 trained responders across more than 10 organizations.

The network responded to ICE and CBP sighting alerts throughout South Central neighborhoods, documenting incidents and providing real-time information to community members.

This documentation proved critical for legal advocates building cases against ICE's use of force, racial profiling and illegal tactics. Throughout the summer, ACCE LA conducted extensive Know Your Rights education sessions, ensuring members understood their immigration protections and could defend themselves and their neighbors.

The network established a model for community-led rapid response that centered the safety and agency of immigrant families.





LOS ANGELES SUMMER OF RESISTANCE

Throughout the summer, ACCE LA joined coalition partners in sustained resistance to federal immigration enforcement. In partnership with Immigrant & Labor Leaders and the United Front coalition, ACCE co-organized multiple large-scale mobilizations in downtown Los Angeles demanding ICE and National Guard to leave the city and calling on LAPD to end all collaboration with federal agents. ACCE members turned out big to United Front actions that twice peacefully shut down streets in South Central, bringing the community's demands directly into public space.





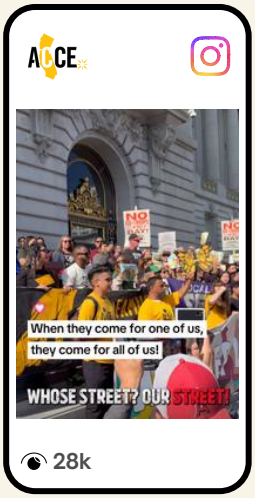
These actions connected the violence of immigration raids to the broader housing affordability crisis, demonstrating how the "billionaires first" agenda harms working families across issues. The mobilizations also included educational workshops on surveillance technology and corporate complicity, building community understanding of the systems driving attacks on immigrant communities.



BAY AREA RESPONSE TO NATIONAL GUARD THREAT







When the Trump administration announced plans to deploy National Guard troops to the Bay Area in October, ACCE mobilized immediately to prevent the militarization of immigrant communities. ACCE Oakland serves on the steering committee of Bay Resistance, the organization that led the coordinated response to the threatened deployment.

On the first day of the threatened deployment, ACCE helped organize a mass march in San Francisco that drew nearly 5,000 people—one of the largest rapid mobilizations in the region. ACCE's social media response went viral twice, with videos amplifying community resistance and reaching hundreds of thousands of people.

ACCE members joined elected leaders and a broad coalition of groups at press conferences in both Oakland and San Francisco, demanding ICE stay out and calling on local officials to refuse collaboration with federal forces.





DEFEATING AUTHORITARIANISM

Photo credit: Terry Scussel


HOUSING
HEALTH CARE
FOOD
FOR ALL
PUEBLO
ARRIBA
MULTIMILLONA
ABAJO
LOWER RENT CAP
AFFORDABLE CALIFORNIA NOW!
JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN!
LEARN MORE
PEOPLE OVER BILLIONAIRES
BERNIE SANDERS
UR HOMES
NOT YOUR

PEOPLE OVER BILLIONAIRES CAMPAIGN

In 2025, the threats facing working families became impossible to ignore: mass deportations tearing apart communities, tax giveaways for corporations paid for by cuts to food stamps and healthcare, billionaires appointed to dismantle the agencies meant to protect everyday people.

The architects of this authoritarian agenda weren't anonymous forces—they were tech oligarchs, corporate CEOs, and Wall Street executives using division and fear to advance their own profits while gutting the safety net.

With our partners, ACCE launched the People Over Billionaires campaign in California to build a sustained response. The campaign strategy is clear: delegitimize the billionaire class by exposing their harm, disrupt their business as usual through direct action and economic pressure, and create defections by offering people a different vision of how the economy could work.

Throughout 2025, ACCE organized high-profile actions against corporate targets while building the infrastructure for an escalating, multi-year fight that makes visible the forces profiting from working people's suffering.



PALANTIR: TARGETING THE SURVEILLANCE STATE

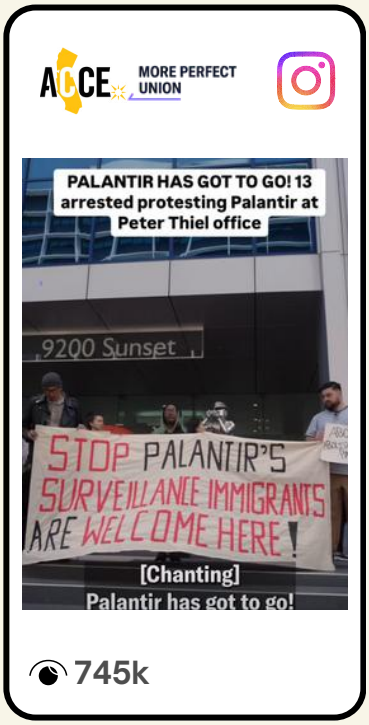
ACCE identified Palantir Technologies and its co-founder Peter Thiel as central bad actor, and began work to expose the company's $30 million ICE contract that powers the surveillance infrastructure behind mass deportations and family separations. In June, at the ACCE staff and board retreat in Los Angeles, members and staff escalated the campaign with a five-hour sit-in at Thiel Capital offices.





Photo Credit: Nicole Chang, LA TACO

Thirteen people were arrested at this peaceful sit-in in the building lobby, and the action generated national attention through a video produced by More Perfect Union that reached hundreds of thousands of viewers.



PALANTIR: TARGETING THE SURVEILLANCE STATE (CONT.)

The campaign continued on August 22 with a coordinated day of action across California. In San Diego, hundreds rallied at the federal courthouse. In Los Angeles, community members shut down the lobby of the Avenue of the Stars building, home to Thiel's foundation

In San Francisco and the Bay Area, labor and community groups marched to Founders Fund—the venture capital firm co-founded by Thiel—and shut down the street outside Palantir's Palo Alto headquarters.

Social media documentation of these actions went viral, with videos reaching tens of thousands, amplifying the message that billionaires like Thiel profit directly from the terror inflicted on immigrant communities.









PEOPLE OVER BILLIONAIRES DAYS OF ACTION

On November 15 in San Francisco and December 6 in Los Angeles and San Diego, ACCE, together with numerous allied organizations, held "People's Parades" marching down billionaire row through the wealthiest neighborhoods in California, past the homes of billionaires funding and profiting from the authoritarian agenda.

The actions drew major media attention including The New York Times and demonstrated our ability to bring the fight directly to the doorsteps of the billionaire class, making visible who profits from mass deportations, safety net cuts, and attacks on working families.



Photo Credit: Rachel P. & Jose Lopez

WE AIN'T BUYIN IT

ACCE participated in the national "We Ain't Buyin It" boycott campaign targeting corporations complicit with authoritarianism. Running from Thanksgiving through the end of the year, the campaign called for boycotts of Target (for caving to attacks on DEI programs), Home Depot (for allowing ICE to kidnap workers on their properties), and Amazon (for funding the administration to secure corporate tax cuts).

Photo Credit: Ghawam Kouchaki







ACCE organized a flash mob at a Southern California Home Depot store and created social media content that collectively reached over one million views on Instagram.

The campaign urged communities to redirect their holiday spending to local, Black-owned, and immigrant-owned businesses, demonstrating that economic power—wielded collectively—could disrupt business as usual for corporations profiting from the "billionaires first" agenda.





POLITICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Throughout the People Over Billionaires campaign, ACCE conducted multiple trainings connecting local struggles to the broader fight against authoritarianism. Nearly 250 members and allies participated in political education sessions analyzing the billionaire class, their corporate interests, and their strategies for maintaining power through division and repression.

These trainings built member capacity to articulate the connections between Peter Thiel's surveillance technology, ICE raids in their neighborhoods, Medicaid cuts, and skyrocketing rents—creating a unified analysis of who benefits from the current system and how collective resistance can challenge it.



MOVEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE: CALIFORNIA COMMON GOOD AND WE ARE CALIFORNIA

ACCE's anti-authoritarian work in 2025 was strengthened through strategic partnerships built to scale resistance across California. We Are California emerged in late 2024 in response to rising threats to democracy. The coalition brought together organizations across the movement ecosystem to make collective meaning of the authoritarian threat, educate the movement on coming attacks, and coordinate protection efforts across the state. However, We Are California is not a campaigning space, and the movement recognized the need for proactive campaigns to channel people's energy into action.

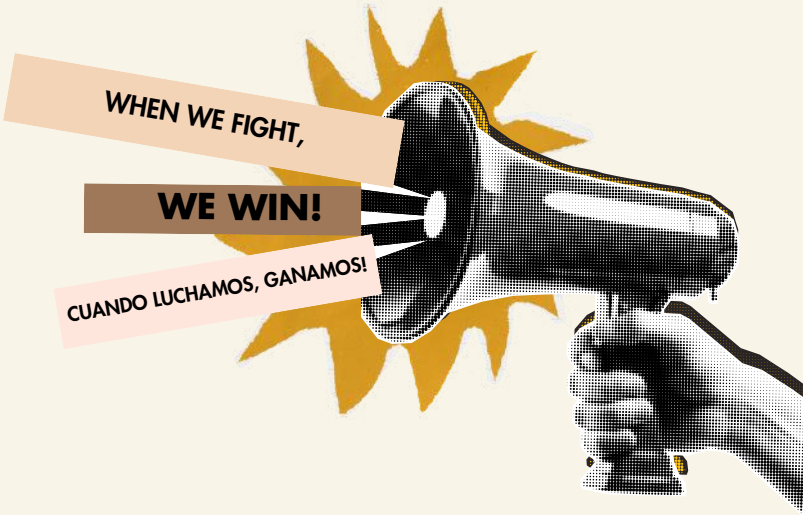




California Common Good (CACG) filled that gap. This statewide table brings together community organizing groups and labor unions—a critical sector for turning back authoritarianism—to take on corporate campaigns aimed at winning progressive structural change funded by taxing extreme wealth and corporate profits. As a core partner in We Are California and a founding organization of California Common Good, ACCE led development of the People Over Billionaires campaign and organized both coalitions to implement it together, combining the protective coordination of We Are California with the issue campaigning power of California Common Good.

MASS ORGANIZING PROJECT: BUILDING TOWARD 3.5%

In 2025, ACCE launched an ambitious mass organizing program designed to build the scale of resistance necessary to defeat authoritarianism. The project is based on the "3.5% rule"—research on over 300 movements showing that when 3.5% of a population actively participates in sustained, nonviolent resistance, authoritarian governments are highly likely to fall.



For ACCE, this means bringing 50,000 people into the organization's work, developing 3,000 active participants, and training 500 volunteer organizers who can lead neighborhood-level organizing. Building on the success of ACCE's Housing Justice League—which has sustained over 100 monthly Zoom calls with members across California—the Mass Organizing Project uses targeted digital outreach in low-income communities of color to identify people ready to fight back, then moves them from online engagement to in-person action through house meetings and neighborhood organizing committees.

The program hired a dedicated team that began work in late 2025, supporting the People Over Billionaires campaign while building the infrastructure to scale ACCE's base to, in collaboration with many others, disrupt, delegitimize, and win defections from the billionaire agenda.





FIGHTING FOR THE FUTURE WE WANT

HOUSING JUSTICE

LARSO Victory: Cutting LA's Rent Cap in Half

In November 2025, ACCE won one of its most significant housing victories: ***cutting Los Angeles's rent cap from 8% to 4%*** under the LA Rent Stabilization Ordinance (LARSO). The victory came after years of relentless organizing—over 1,000 signatures gathered across five City Council districts, town halls in each district drawing 20-80 attendees, direct actions including sit-ins and encampments, monthly public comment at City Council three times per month, and coalition building with DSA, CHIRLA, COCO, SCOPE, SEIU 721 and 2015, UTLA, LA Fed, United Front, and Immigrant & Labor Leaders.

Despite opposition from Council President Harris-Dawson and two other councilmembers, ACCE and its coalition partners won protections that will keep tens of thousands of LA families housed. The win represents a critical shift in the balance of power between tenants and corporate landlords in one of the nation's most expensive rental markets. At the county level, **ACCE also helped lower the LA County rent cap from 4% to 3% for unincorporated areas.**





HOUSING JUSTICE

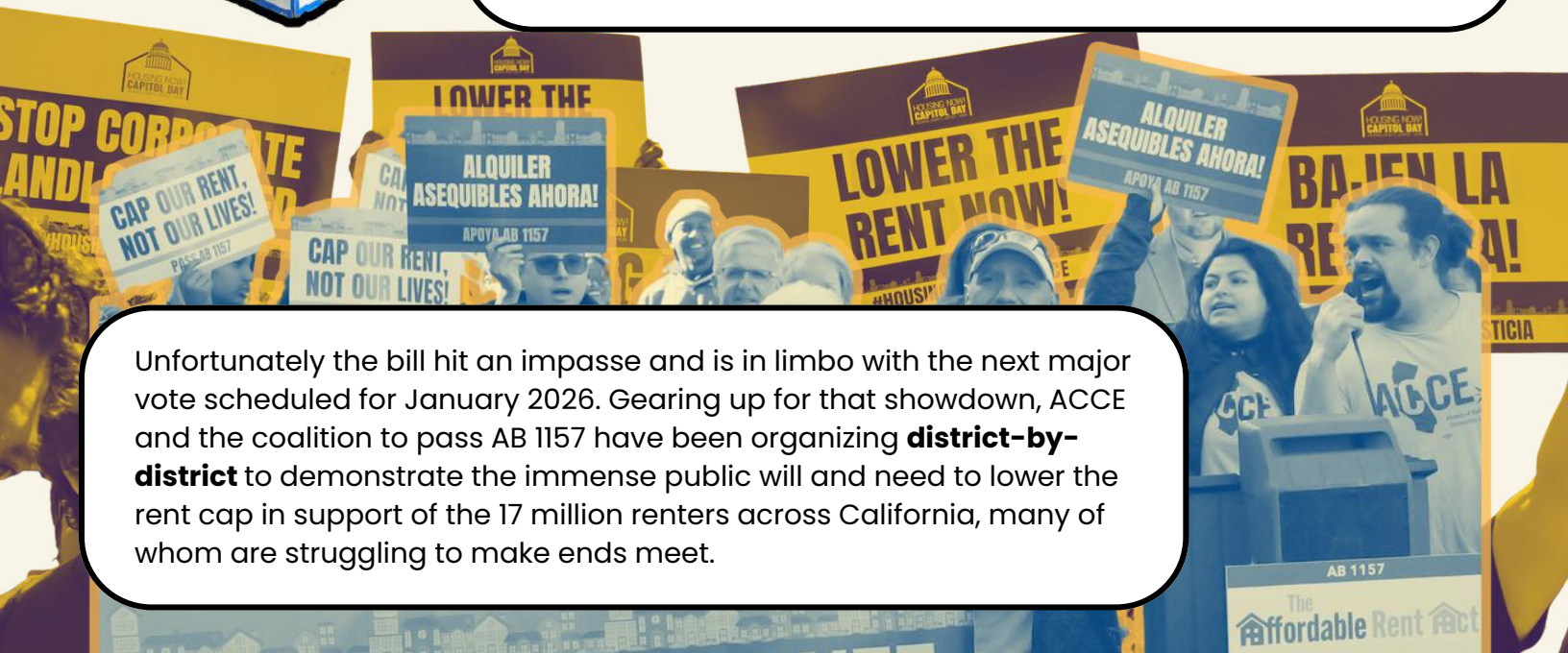


AB 1157: Cutting California's State Rent Cap in Half

With the expiration date for the state's rent cap looming, and rent increases pushing more and more Californians into housing instability or homelessness, ACCE members decided to push hard to reduce the rent cap and expand rental protections across the State. Responding to that mandate, ACCE staff and members organized relentlessly for AB 1157, which would lower California's statewide rent cap from 10% to 5%.



On April 28, ACCE brought hundreds of members to Housing Now's Sacramento lobby day featuring over 100 lobby visits, a press conference, a march to the California Apartment Association, and an occupation of the CAA lobby. Four days earlier, **hundreds of ACCE members and allies packed the Assembly Housing Committee hearing where AB 1157 passed its first major hurdle**.



Unfortunately the bill hit an impasse and is in limbo with the next major vote scheduled for January 2026. Gearing up for that showdown, ACCE and the coalition to pass AB 1157 have been organizing **district-by-district** to demonstrate the immense public will and need to lower the rent cap in support of the 17 million renters across California, many of whom are struggling to make ends meet.

HOUSING JUSTICE

National City Rent Control

In August, ACCE San Diego launched a new chapter in National City with a 100-person BIG meeting followed by a concert in the park. Three days later, 40 members marched to City Hall for a press conference demanding a 3% rent cap, an anti-harassment ordinance, and the right for tenants to organize. The campaign built a diverse, multigenerational leadership team of Black, Latino, and Filipino residents and contributed to San Diego surpassing its membership goal for the year with 215 new members. The fight for rent control in National City continues into 2026.



HOUSING JUSTICE

Social Housing

ACCE continued building the social housing movement in Los Angeles and statewide. ACCE played a leadership role in the Housing Now Social Housing Working Group and the SB 555 Implementation Working Group, shaping how California's housing plan will incorporate social housing. ACCE and other groups are working to stand up new local examples of social housing as models, and secure local funding to grow the social housing movement from the bottom up.

At 39th Street in LA, members won $100,000 per unit through the Community Plan Implementation Overlay and organized tenants to fight demolition and stay in their homes. In Los Angeles, ACCE helped secure $318 million in Measure ULA funding allocated to social housing, tenant protections, union jobs, income support for seniors, homeownership, and anti-harassment programs.





HOUSING JUSTICE

Code Enforcement Victories

In Richmond, ACCE secured mandatory inspections every three years, eliminated self-certification for large buildings, and won stronger citywide oversight of code enforcement—ensuring landlords can't ignore health and safety violations.



And in July, ACCE-LA won significant improvements to the city's Systematic Code Enforcement Program (SCEP), including language justice protections, requirements for before/after photos, better coordination with tenants, an extended Tenant Habitability Plan, and education on the SCEP process.





Photo Credit: Brooke Anderson

CLIMATE JUSTICE

Make Polluters Pay

Along with climate justice organizations across the state, ACCE made significant progress on the Make Polluters Pay Superfund Act, which would hold fossil fuel companies financially accountable for climate damages. In January, over 70 ACCE members attended a campaign education and training session with the Climate Organizing Hub. Those members formed the core organizing committee that helped lead a 200 person mobilization on March 11, marching on Chevron's Richmond refinery while coalition partners rallied in Pasadena against the backdrop of the devastating LA fires.







In April, LA members joined health professionals and frontline communities at a City Hall press conference. Richmond members traveled to Sacramento in May for a lobby day, and in October, ACCE hosted a 2.5-day convening in Los Angeles that brought together 70 participants for classroom training and canvassing in Watts, where organizers knocked on 200 doors and found over 80% of residents struggling with high utility costs. The bill continues into 2026, with ACCE contributing and organizing toward critical Senate and Assembly Judiciary Committee votes.



CLIMATE JUSTICE

Decarb CoCo (Contra Costa Clean Energy & Healthy Homes)



In Richmond, ACCE advanced a groundbreaking program to fully electrify 40-80 homes in the Iron Triangle, Coronado, and Santa Fe neighborhoods at no cost to residents. A 25-member organizing committee participated in three trainings throughout 2025, and in October the City Council approved a Project Labor Agreement ensuring local hiring priority for the work. The program—funded through a combination of state, utility, and local sources—is working toward completing three homes by year-end as a proof of concept for larger-scale decarbonization that centers environmental justice and good union jobs.





Utility Justice Campaign

ACCE launched a new statewide Utility Justice campaign targeting PG&E, Southern California Edison, and SDG&E for rate structures that force low-income households to pay 10% or more of their income on utilities while wealthy households pay just 2-3%. In Los Angeles, members surveyed over 300 residents and identified high utility debt as a major burden. Chapters in San Diego, Los Angeles, Oakland, and Richmond are building campaigns to demand affordable, equitable utility rates that don't force families to choose between keeping the lights on and paying rent.

TRAINING AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

ACCE's power to win campaigns and build sustained resistance depends on developing member leaders who can organize their communities, speak to the media, and train others. In 2025, ACCE invested heavily in **leadership development** programs across California, building the skills and confidence of hundreds of members.







ACCE's A-Team program provides intensive organizing training that moves members from participation to leadership. In Los Angeles, 14 members completed and graduated from the program, and in Contra Costa launched its own cohort of 8 members. A-Team graduates went on to lead organizing drives in their own buildings and neighborhoods, multiplying ACCE's capacity to build campaigns from the ground up.



TRAINING AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



ACCE's Field Organizer Training

ACCE implemented a “six-weeks” training for prospective new organizers which provided the foundational organizing skills ACCE needs for any field organizer to be hired. In Los Angeles, graduates led two successful organizing drives in their buildings. Participants of this six week field training were from the LA office, the San Diego office, the Oakland office, and the Contra Costa office. ACCE also conducted organizing drive trainings with Oakland and San Diego offices.



ACCE conducted planning sessions with field organizers and members of the Los Angeles office.

Two six months planning sessions were held in order to develop local campaigns and build power of our chapters and be able to move local policies and win. Over 60 participants in total between field organizers and membership participated.

ACCE organized new chapters and reconstituted functioning ones.



Through leadership development the LA office constituted one new chapter (CD-15), San Diego constituted one chapter, Oakland is in solid ground to constitute 2 chapters (one in district and on at large). Chapter formation is at the core of leadership development for ACCE.

ACCE Spokesperson Trainings



ACCE conducted three rounds of spokesperson trainings with over 100 members getting trained on how to powerfully tell their stories, speak to the media, and shift the narrative. Trained spokespeople represented ACCE at major actions throughout the year—ensuring media coverage centered the voices of directly impacted community members.

CONCLUSION



2025 came at us all like a wrecking ball. It brought new challenges to our organization, our members, and our communities that we expected, but still were not prepared for. Yet in every challenge, we saw community rise up. We saw people show up for one another. We saw people stand up to bullies, and stand up for one another. And we saw an activation of volunteer organizers across every county in the state.

What's more, we can feel a shift in collective consciousness take shape. It is a shift that makes so much more possible. It makes the future we've been dreaming of, and working toward, seem so much more necessary -and necessity is the mother of invention! So in 2026 **ACCE plans to experiment more, demand more, and distribute more**. We plan to keep the pressure up on corporations and wealthy individuals who are ideologically or opportunistically benefiting from the suffering and dividing of our communities. We plan to battle it out for the space to build the future we deserve -a future that respects and celebrates the diversity this state holds. And we plan to do it with joy and love for one another.

So when you see ACCE members wearing their bright yellow shirts in the streets in protest, or in a city council hearing sharing their testimony, or on the news laying out community demands, know they are in the fight for all of us because **when we fight... WE WIN!**





Photo Credit: Jose Lopez