

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 13, 2024

The Inland Empire Labor Council, AFL-CIO announces the establishment of the Labor Response Community of the Inland Empire to address the needs of Union and Non-Union Families

Colton, CA — The Inland Empire Labor Council AFL-CIO is excited to announce the creation of the Labor Response Community of the Inland Empire (LRC). This nonprofit 501(c)(3) will establish support systems for union and non-union families in times of need.

The Labor Response Community aligns itself with the Labor Council's advocacy for better wages, working conditions, and hours by assisting workers when they don't have those necessities. This is done through essential services like food pantries, mobile food distributions, disaster response trainings, and financial education. The LRC intends to further expand its services to include: strike funds, bilingual services, housing assistance, education grants, and assistance with the expungement of criminal records.

The Labor Response Community was created to work with labor unions and their members to create a community of helpers. These helpers will enhance the well-being and security of our community, utilizing the power and unique skill set of the Inland Empire's unions. The LRC hopes to ensure the community sees labor as a "go-to" support system as the LRC creates other partnerships in the area.

"We are proud to establish the LRC to build a stronger, more resilient labor community," said Ricardo Cisneros, Executive Secretary-Treasurer/Business Manager, IELC. "This will allow us to extend our reach and provide critical resources and hope to change the narrative of how labor unions are seen in the IE."

President of the IELC, Yesenia Gonzalez (Organizing Director, UFCW 1167) announces that "To establish the Labor Response Community of the Inland Empire, we have asked one of our Executive Board members, Carmella Swanson a member of OPEIU 277 to serve as the Executive Director." Carmella strongly supports the LRC's mission, believing that "the birth of the LRC is a significant step forward in realizing our vision of a supportive, self-sufficient community."

For media inquiries, please contact:

Carmella Swanson

Executive Director, Labor Response Community of the Inland Empire

949.662.1294

Carmella@ResponseCommunity.org

###