

Resources to Support CAC-Community Connections

About this Resource

This document is intended to be a resource for California communities and County Agricultural Commissioner (CAC) staff as one of a variety of tools (see the Department of Pesticide Regulation's [Resource Hub for Local Engagement](#)) produced by a collaborative, diverse group of both community and CAC partners to improve and enhance communication and engagement across the state.

This resource was developed to support ongoing efforts of CAC offices and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) to promote meaningful engagement between community members and CAC staff. It includes organizations and suggestions for how to initiate these conversations as well as success stories highlighting CAC-Community engagement efforts.

Who can you contact to connect with CBOs?

Community-based organizations (CBOs) are in your area, and there's a good chance they'd like to connect with you and discuss their community's concerns and learn how you can help. This is an opportunity for you as the CAC in the region to connect with community members and organizations who serve the public. We have curated some ideas below for how to reach and engage your local CBOs.

Note: Some of these groups only operate in certain counties.

Government entities

- County Health Department Director
- County Public Health Department staff
- County Board of Supervisors
- [Mexican Consulates in California](#)

Government programs

- Farmworker Resource Program: see the [original program in Ventura County](#), and those [programs being established](#) in Stanislaus, Monterey, and Santa Barbara Counties
- Migrant Farmworker Housing Program: [over 20 Migrant Housing Centers](#) are maintained by the [Office of Migrant Services](#)
- California's [Migrant Education Program](#)

Community coalitions

- [Identifying Violations Affecting Neighborhoods \(IVAN\) communities](#)
- [California COVID-19 Community Health and Workplace Outreach Project \(CWOP\)](#)

Local events

- County fairs
- Health fairs
- Cultural events (for example, Mexican Independence Day, Hmong New Year)

What can you do to connect with your CAC?

Every county in California has a County Agricultural Commissioner (CAC). CACs and their staff work to promote and protect agriculture – for both growers and farmworkers – and protect people and the environment. They provide many services for the county such as “making sure pesticide regulations are being followed, invasive plants and pests are kept out of the state... and compiling the county’s annual crop report”*. For more information on CAC roles, please refer to [Examples of County Agricultural Commissioner roles and responsibilities](#).

This is an opportunity for you as a community member or CBO in the region to discuss your interests and concerns with your county’s Agricultural Commissioner. Your CAC is the first point of contact when addressing local pesticide issues as well as other topics. We have collected some ideas below for how to reach and engage your local CAC.

How to contact your CAC

- **Call or email your CAC.** This is often the fastest way to get your concerns heard and addressed. Visit cacasa.org/county/ to find out who your CAC is and their contact information.
- **Connect with CBOs in your area** that prioritize organizing around agricultural issues. These organizations may already be in contact with your CAC.
- Remember, report any pesticide concerns as soon as possible for a quick response. For more information, visit [How to report pesticide incidents, illnesses, or concerns](#).

Helpful reminders when contacting your CAC for the first time

- Include your contact preferences and information (for example, phone number, email address, preferred hours to contact). If you do not leave contact information, you will not be able to receive a call back.
- Include your preferred spoken language(s).
- Include the topic you would like to discuss (for example, pest management, consumer protection, pesticide concern, presentation opportunity).
- Remember, for emergencies, call 9-1-1.

* **Source:** Aguilar, Vivienne. "Stanislaus County swaps previous agricultural commissioner and sealer with San Joaquin’s." *The Modesto Bee*, 20 March 2023, www.modbee.com/news/business/agriculture/article273185705.html. Accessed 13 April 2023.