

REPORT FROM

OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Date: October 9, 2025

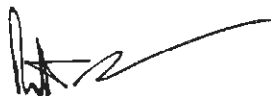
CAO File No. 0220-05357-0010

Council File No. 17-0046-S4

Council District: Citywide

To: The Mayor
The City Council

From: Matthew W. Szabo, City Administrative Officer



Subject: **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON OPTIONS TO INCREASE REPRESENTLA FUNDING BY \$1 MILLION**

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Council, subject to the approval by the Mayor:

1. Request the Controller to transfer \$1,000,000 from the Unappropriated Balance Fund 100/58, Account No. 580132, Equipment Expenses, and Alterations and Improvements, to the Community Investment for Families Fund 100/21, Account No. 003040, Contractual Services to increase RepresentLA funding;
2. Direct the Community Investment for Families Department (CIFD) to work with the County of Los Angeles to request additional funds from the California Community Foundation and the Weingart Foundation for RepresentLA; and,
3. Instruct the CIFD to pursue future grant opportunities to support the RepresentLA program.

SUMMARY

At its meeting of August 1, 2025, the Civil Rights, Equity, Immigration, Aging, and Disability Committee (Committee) instructed this Office to report on additional options to increase the City contribution to the RepresentLA Program by at least \$1 million pursuant to the Jurado-Harris-Dawson motion (C.F. 17-0046-S4) and provide the following:

- Breakdown of expenditures by service provider for a \$1 million increase
- Data on the number of individuals served by RepresentLA to date
- List of items with funding set aside in the 2025-26 Unappropriated Balance
- Available grants to support a \$1 million increase to RepresentLA

Due to the City's current budget constraints, in order to increase RepresentLA funding by \$1 million, an offsetting reduction in the same amount is required. Any adjustments and/or reductions to the 2025-26 Adopted Budget is a policy decision of the Mayor and City Council.

The RepresentLA Program is a public-private partnership between the City, the Los Angeles County (County), the California Community Foundation (CCF), and the Weingart Foundation to provide free legal representation for immigrants facing deportation or seeking affirmative immigration relief. The City has contributed a total of \$5 million towards the program from its inception in April 2022 through 2024-25. Further, the 2025-26 Adopted Budget includes \$1 million for the program. The County has contributed \$10.3 million through 2024-25 and has allocated \$5.5 million in 2025-26. The CCF and the Weingart Foundation each contributed \$1 million at the launch of the program. The County reports that \$7.5 million is needed in 2025-26 to maintain 2024-25 service levels. Currently, total available funding for 2025-26 is \$6.5 million, consisting of the \$5.5 million from the County and \$1 million from the City.

In July 2025, the County Board of Supervisors directed the County Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA) to explore increased funding for the RepresentLA Program and to re-engage philanthropies for grants and/or donations. In its report to the Board of Supervisors dated August 13, 2025, the OIA indicated that they had requested an additional \$2.9 million through the Care First Community Investment (CFCI) program to offset the \$1 million reduction in 2025-26 and increase the program by 25 percent to address the increased need for legal services. The County reports the CFCI is recommending a \$312,000 award to the OIA, which would reduce the \$1 million shortfall to \$688,000. The County is also launching an integrated fundraising strategy to support both the legal and economic needs of immigrant families. The County will hold funder briefings for sports, business, and philanthropic donors as well as members of the public to highlight opportunities to support economic assistance efforts and the expansion of RepresentLA legal services.

Breakdown of \$1 Million in Expenditures for RepresentLA

The RepresentLA Program will use any additional funds for the expansion of legal representation for detained immigrants to include limited-scope representation, such as intake, bond hearing representation, credible fear interview representation, and full-scope removal defense representation for those who are not eligible for release on bond. Additional funds will be used to support both the expansion of existing RepresentLA service providers listed in the Attachment to this report and the addition of new service providers who demonstrate the ability to immediately expand legal services to the detained immigrants. It is important to note that additional funds will not necessarily result in a larger number of new removal defense cases because service providers are responsible for continuing to provide representation for existing clients. According to the County, there are currently 430 clients receiving full-scope removal defense representation. Similarly, ongoing representation of existing clients limits the ability to accept new cases for affirmative benefits representation.

Due to the unpredictable and rapidly changing needs of immigrants in Los Angeles, the breakdown of the number of individuals served with \$1 million in expenditures below is an estimate based on current trends and availability of services.

- Legal orientation: 1,000
- Legal intake/consultation: 200

- Bond hearings and credible fear interview representation: 125
- Full-scope removal defense representation: 50

Bond hearings representation is a critical limited-scope representation service provided to detained immigrants. The Department of Homeland Security recently issued a memo that, if upheld, would limit eligibility for bond hearings. In such case, the funds would be redirected to full-scope removal representation. Other limited-scope services include assistance with employment authorization documents, change of venue motions, and change of address for immigrants in removal proceedings.

RepresentLA Program Metrics

The table below shows the number of individuals served by program component and target population in the RepresentLA Program in 2024-25 and cumulatively since the program was launched in 2022.

Service	2024-25					Cumulative Data since Program Launch
	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter	2024-25 Total	
Removal Defense Representation	20	23	26	14	83	662
Affirmative Representation						
Asylum Seekers	43	40	70	27	180	374
Labor Trafficking/ Workplace Exploitation	121	91	57	4	273	356
Special Immigrant Juvenile Status	6	14	46	12	78	338
Veterans	11	3	1	8	23	23
Immigrants Experiencing Homelessness*	-	-	-	-	-	236
Affirmative Representation Total	181	148	174	51	554	1,327
Limited-Scope Legal Services						
Know Your Rights and Immigration Legal Orientation	468	386	1,228	4,037	6,119	8,790
Worker Rights and Safety*	-	-	-	-	6,053	6,053
Limited-Scope Legal Services	218	225	206	416	1,065	4,398
Limited-Scope Legal Services Total	686	611	1,434	4,453	7,184	19,241
Total	887	782	1,634	4,518	7,821	21,230

**The 2024-25 quarterly breakdown is not available for affirmative representation for immigrants experiencing homelessness and Worker Rights and Safety orientations.*

Unappropriated Balance

The Unappropriated Balance (UB) sets aside funding to meet contingencies as they arise during the fiscal year. This Office identified the following UB line item for Council consideration as a potential funding source because the item has had an uncommitted and unexpended balance every fiscal year for the last three years of over \$1 million:

Expenses, Equipment, and Alterations and Improvements: funding in the amount of \$6,181,000 is set aside as a contingency to address necessary adjustments to accounts. Of this amount, \$5.2 million is typically used for Mayor (\$1.9 million) and Council (\$3.3 million) staff salaries, and \$0.5 million each is also set aside for Council City Hall security measures and Council communications. The Office of the Chief Legislative Analyst manages transfer requests for the Council portions.

Grants

Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development Local Immigrant Integration and Inclusion Grant

The Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) Local Immigrant Integration and Inclusion (LIIIG) Grant provides one-time funding to support the development or expansion of immigrant integration efforts, increase community trust, and enhance organizational capacity of local governments to support immigrant populations in California.

In July 2023, the City applied jointly with the County, with the County as the lead agency, for the LIIIG Grant. In September 2023, the City and the County were awarded \$1,149,000, of which \$471,000 was allocated to the City. On November 19, 2024, the City Council approved the acceptance of the \$471,000 subrecipient grant award from the County (C.F. 21-1015-S7).

The Community Investment for Families Department administers the LIIIG program and requested to extend the term of the Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the County through December 31, 2025 (C.F. 21-1015-S7). The joint program focuses on social services navigation by facilitating community engagement through outreach events and coordination with service providers. The program provides outreach materials and assistance with accessing information and resources related to housing, childcare, financial literacy, healthcare, employment, and entrepreneurship. Additionally, the CIFD has recently launched the Know Your Rights campaign to promote awareness of immigrants' legal rights and available resources. The CIFD proposes to use LIIIG funds to further expand the Know Your Rights campaign and combine efforts with the Civil and Human Rights and Equity Department's "I Belong, You Belong, We Belong" campaign to further promote inclusion, belonging, and solidarity (C.F. 21-1015-S7).

California Department of Social Services

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Immigration Services Bureau (ISB) administers grant programs to fund non-profit organizations to provide pro bono immigration legal services, education and community outreach, and other essential immigrant inclusion and integration efforts for the most underserved immigrant populations and historically underserved regions. While the City is not eligible for any of the below grants, RepresentLA service providers are eligible and several have received grant awards.

The table below shows current RepresentLA service providers that received grant awards from the CDSS Immigration Services grant programs.

CDSS Grant Awards by RepresentLA Provider and Grant Program

	Organization	Immigration Services Funding	Removal Defense	Detained Representation	Youth Legal Services	Total
1	Asian Americans Advancing Justice SoCal	\$ 1,170,330	\$ 123,945	\$ 246,622	\$ -	\$ 1,540,897
2	Central American Resource Center of California	1,765,090	380,903	-	266,000	2,411,993
3	Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights	2,656,370	304,009	-	-	2,960,379
4	Council on American-Islamic Relations, California	-	126,926	284,197	-	411,123
5	Immigrant Defenders Law Center	-	1,111,759	667,784	1,890,000	3,669,543
6	Los Angeles LGBT Center	179,250	121,530	-	-	300,780
	Total	\$ 5,771,040	\$ 2,169,072	\$ 1,198,603	\$ 2,156,000	\$11,294,715

Below is a brief description of the grant programs administered by the CDSS.

Immigration Services Funding Program

The Immigration Services Funding (ISF) Program expands available immigration services and increases the number of immigrants receiving free, quality immigration legal services. Selected non-profit organizations provide immigration legal services and benefits, conduct education and outreach activities to immigrant communities, provide legal training and technical assistance to other grantees to increase expertise and ensure the quality of all legal services, and provide other

supportive services. The CDSS allocated \$37.0 million for the period from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Removal Defense

The Removal Defense Program funds qualified non-profit organizations to provide pro bono legal services to immigrants residing in, or formerly residing in, the State of California. The goal of removal defense funding is to provide quality representation in removal defense proceedings, expand access and referrals, and build capacity and expertise of organizations that provide services across the State. The CDSS allocated \$8.4 million for the period from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028.

Detained Representation Program

The Detained Representation Program (DRP) supports the provision of legal services for individuals currently held in immigration detention in California. This funding is intended to respond to the evolving legal needs of vulnerable immigrant communities impacted by federal changes to immigration policy and regulations. The DRP addresses critical service gaps, expands access to immigration legal services for detained individuals, and supports innovative strategies to improve detained legal service delivery and respond to evolving needs across the state. The CDSS allocated \$5.0 million for the period from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2027.

Youth Legal Services Program

Formerly known as the Unaccompanied Undocumented Minors program, the Youth Legal Services (YLS) Program provides grants to qualified non-profit organizations to provide legal services to immigrant youth in immigration proceedings and representation in administrative and/or judicial proceedings for Asylum, T-Visas, U-Visas, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, and other legal remedies. The CDSS allocated \$6.7 million for the period from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Philanthropy

The philanthropic organizations listed below fund non-profit organizations and public agencies serving immigrant communities. Currently, the Rosenberg Foundation is the only organization accepting Letters of Interest (LOI) or grant applications. Additionally, only the Ray Solem Foundation provides information on the potential award amount.

The California Wellness Foundation

The purpose of this program is to protect and improve the health and wellness of the people of California by increasing access to health care, quality education, good jobs, healthy environments, and safe neighborhoods. Funding assists non-profit organizations, businesses, and government entities, including public school districts, to implement activities related to direct services, public policy, leadership, and capacity building.

All projects must address urgent needs that people are facing in their communities, with a specific focus on low-income communities, people of color, youth, immigrants, and residents of rural areas. Applicants submitting successful LOIs will be invited to submit full proposals. Information on the next cycle for LOI submissions is currently not available.

Rosenberg Foundation

The purpose of this program is to advance justice by supporting projects implemented by non-profit organizations and public agencies that dismantle the systemic barriers that stand in the way of Californians, particularly communities of color. Funding will support leadership development, policy advocacy, and grassroots organizing to dismantle barriers to opportunity for low-income communities and communities of color. Priority areas for project consideration include:

- Justice and public safety: projects that aim to advance sentencing reform, promote alternatives to incarceration, and reduce recidivism through reentry, including by bolstering employment opportunities for the formerly incarcerated.
- Immigrant rights and immigrant workers' rights: projects that aim to ensure that immigrant populations are part of civic and economic life in California by supporting immigration reform, bolstering grassroots advocacy, enforcing voting and language rights, and strengthening the communications capacity of immigrant rights advocates. Support is also provided to projects that invest in strategies that support pathways to legalization for California farmworkers who are undocumented, strengthen labor protections for agricultural guest workers, and challenge unfair wages and unsafe/exploitative working conditions.
- Civil rights and civic engagement: projects that focus on increasing civic participation among under-represented populations, particularly in communities of color and among low-income communities. This program also supports longstanding California civil rights organizations, supports efforts to build the individual and collective capacity of a new generation of young leaders at the helm of venerable civil rights institutions, and seeds innovative efforts to make voting accessible.

Applicants submitting successful LOIs will be invited to submit full proposals. Information on the next cycle for LOI submissions is currently not available.

Ray Solem Foundation

The purpose of this program is to assist in the advancement of low-income immigrants within the United States so they are able to become productive citizens. Funding is available to support projects that help immigrants in creative ways to become productive and valued members of society. Priority will be given to projects that focus on assisting immigrant victims of human trafficking and domestic violence and/or unaccompanied immigrant youth. Priority will also be given to applicants with incomes under \$1 million. The maximum grant award is \$20,000 for a two-year period, and the next application due date is April 26, 2026.

Legal Services Corporation

The purpose of this program is to support the work of organizations providing high quality civil legal services to low-income people, including agricultural workers and Native American communities. This program will provide general operating awards to support an organization's legal services activities, including operating expenses and overhead. Awards will be made to applicants providing the most effective, integrated, economical, and high-quality legal services to eligible clients within designated service areas. Grant applicants must be in the specific service areas in competition for the grant cycle. The Los Angeles area is not eligible until 2028.

Additional City Services

Los Angeles Public Library – New Americans Initiative

This program provides information and services for immigration and citizenship including "Know Your Rights" and citizenship classes. Service appointments are available either in-person at a New Americans Center at select libraries or by telephone. Contracted service providers assist with the following:

- Benefits eligibility screening
- Citizenship application assistance (N-400)
- Green card renewal (I-90)
- DACA renewal (I-821D)
- General consultation
- Family reunification consultation (Petition for Family Member/I-130)
- Questions about Permanent Residence/Green Card Application (Adjustment of status, I-485)
- Questions about removing conditions on residency (I-751)
- Work Permit Renewal (EAD Form I-765)
- Help with Freedom of Information Act Requests (FOIA Requests)
- Referrals to other immigration services

By phone appointment only:

- Financial coaching for immigrants
- Small business consultation
- Transactional legal services for small business owners
- Q&A for Afghan arrivals in Persian (Farsi)

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The option identified for a \$1 million increase to RepresentLA funding is available in the Unappropriated Balance within the 2025-26 Adopted Budget. There is no additional impact to the General Fund.

FINANCIAL POLICIES STATEMENT

The recommendations in this report comply with the City's Financial Policies in that the City will continue to pursue grant opportunities.

Attachment

- RepresentLA Service Providers

MWS:JLJ:02260018c

ATTACHMENT

RepresentLA Service Providers

Detained and Non-Detained Removal Defense Representation

Program Administrator: Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles

1. Central American Resource Center
2. Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles
3. Council on American-Islamic Relations
4. Immigrant Defenders Law Center
5. Los Angeles LGBT Center
6. Public Counsel
7. The TransLatin@ Coalition
8. University of Southern California, Gould School of Law

Affirmative Immigration Benefits Representation

Program Administrator: Central American Resource Center

Affirmative Asylum

1. PARS Equality Center

Affirmative Special Immigrant Juvenile Status

1. Central American Resource Center
2. Esperanza Immigrants Rights Project

Immigrants Experiencing Homelessness

1. Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles

Affirmative Labor Trafficking and Workplace Exploitation

1. Asian Americans Advancing Justice
2. Thai Community Development Center

Veterans

1. Immigrant Defenders Law Center