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Your Information

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After question three, which questions from the flowchart are you prepared to answer?

Is there funding?
Which department holds the funding?
How much funding is there?
Which orgs receive it?
How is success measured?
What are the impacts, and gaps?

Root Cause Analysis

Story: What did you hear from the community?

Individuals in the community continue to voice concerns regarding underfunding of immigration legal services. Currently, only roughly 20% of individuals that seek help receive it.

Individuals in the community are grateful to the City for funding an Immigrant Affairs position. The community expressed concerns regarding the amount of work required, and the need to expand the Immigrant Affairs position/office.

Problem: What is the problem you identify?

Only a small number of individuals are served with the way funding currently stands.
One Immigrant Affairs' position is not enough to serve the entire City of Austin.

How does the problem show up in your community? Who is most impacted by the problem?

Immigrants without legal status face increased risk due to increased law enforcement and anti-immigrant sentiment. Immigrants without legal status may not have access to educational opportunities and community services. Additionally, COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted the immigrant community. Immigrants without legal status are ineligible for federal aid. If an American citizen filed a tax return with a spouse that does not have a SSN, the American citizen is ineligible for a stimulus payment. The President signed an order suspending immigration for 60 days. This will increase the need for legal representation.

Is there funding to address the problem? Yes

Do multiple departments administer these funds?	Yes
What is the primary department that administers the funds?	Austin Public Health
What is the secondary department that administers the funds?	Equity Office
How much funding is identified to address this problem?	One vendor receives \$210,000, and the other vendor receives \$70,000. The Equity Office receives \$100,000.
Which organization(s) or program receives the funding?	American Gateways and Catholic Charities receive funding for legal services.
How is success measured in the contract/department? How does this align with SD2023?	<p>Output Measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total Number of Unduplicated Clients Served Total Number of Individuals Acquiring Legal Assistance Number of individuals obtaining or maintaining public benefits Number of individuals in program Percent of individuals who obtain or maintain public benefits <p>They align with Safety and Economic Opportunity & Affordability.</p>
What are the impacts of the funding?	<p>Immigrants are served, but we did not see a breakdown of demographics for clients. It is reported that demographic data on the residents served will be collected and reported, including: age, gender, address including zip code, ethnicity, race, and income.</p> <p>We see a gap in funding legal services for more difficult cases.</p> <p>The Immigrant Affairs position was recently filled. We do not have any of this information since the position is new; however, we already see a gap. The amount of work and engagement required to support the immigrant community cannot be completed by one person alone.</p>
Considering all of the information you have or have not collected above, how do we solve for this problem?	<p>The Commission recommends allocating greater funding for immigrant services and legal services by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allocating an additional \$100,000 so that American Gateways can continue to represent families and increase the number of individuals served; and - Allocating additional funding to provide low bono and pro bono representation; and - Allocating funding to build out the Immigrant Affairs position/office. <p>This recommendation aligns with the following SD 2023 Outcomes: Safety; and Economic Opportunity & Affordability.</p>